

Tories pledged to guard against end of Lords

The spectre of Mr Wedgwood-Benn's instant socialism loomed over the Conservative conference at Brighton. It spurred delegates to urge the strengthening of the House of Lords against the possibility of abolition and it roused Mr Michael Heseltine to vow that the Tories "would drive them back again".

Benn spectre looms over conference

From Fred Emery, Political Editor, Brighton
Conservative Cabinet ministers and constituency representatives yesterday largely diverted themselves from present difficulties to devote the opening session of their conference to repelling the threat of instant socialism from Mr Wedgwood-Benn and the Labour left.

In a typical oration that caught the conference to its feet in a standing ovation, Mr Michael Heseltine, Secretary of State for the Environment, vowed that the Tories would "drive them back again", adding: "We will never accept our alien creed on the peoples of this land."

Aid banking rhetoric with policy on behalf of Mr Margaret Thatcher personally and the Government, Mr Norman St John-Stevens, Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster and leader of the House of Commons, unreservedly endorsed a conference motion urging that the House of Lords be strengthened against the possibility of abolition.

Late last night, on the BBC television "Newsnight", programme, Mr St John-Stevens admitted that the Cabinet had never considered the matter, and he said it could not be considered by Parliament until the session beginning in November 1981.

However, he maintained that the issue was now back at the centre of the political stage, given an "immediacy" by Mr Benn at Blackpool.

Further, perhaps in a decent acceptance of Labour's policy challenge, Conservative MPs voted to support the EEC on Thursday, a motion that put them on a collision course with public opinion.

For in spite of lobbying for Lord's reform from Lord Ball-



Mr Norman St John-Stevens speaking at Brighton yesterday.



sham of St Marylebone, the Lord Chancellor, the issue has lost low priority with Mrs Thatcher and her Cabinet colleagues. And it has been spoken of as a matter for a second term of government.

Yet here were conference speakers almost falling over themselves to urge action, one even calling for a new Upper House elected before the next general election.

Others were more confident.

Mr Douglas Hogg, MP for Gravesham, thought the Conservatives would win the next two elections. But for many of the rest it was clear that Mr Benn was a genius out of a bottle. And they were running scared.

In vain had Lord Thorneycroft, the party chairman, urged them in a splendid rallying speech not to dwell on Labour at Blackpool. The Conservatives could hardly let go of the Lords bards on the Lords, local government and education.

It almost passed unnoticed that Lord Thorneycroft also insisted that the Government would not be inflexible on economic policy.

In the process, Lord Thorneycroft praised Mr Edward Heath, who on Monday evening had used a television interview to argue the Government against being afraid to adjust its policies. Mr Heath had said the Government might lose support for all its policies if it persisted in trying to manage the economy through control of the money supply alone.

Mrs Thatcher is to attend today's debate on industrial relations but will not speak until the closing session on Friday.

Conference reports, page 4
Leading article, page 15
Continued on page 8, col 6

Full agreement on refunding British EEC contributions

The EEC foreign ministers reached an agreement in Brussels on the method and timetable for repaying British budget contributions, which Lord Carrington, the Foreign Secretary, described as "very satisfactory". Surprisingly the French did not insist on the right to veto each payment. It was speculated that Mrs Thatcher might have reached a *quid pro quo* agreement on farm prices with President Giscard d'Estaing, but Lord Carrington denied any link between the new agreement and the farm price settlement.

Murder victims' burnt

The bodies of six murder victims, including Mr George Brett and his son Terry, aged 10, were cut up and burnt in a grate in a council flat, it was alleged, at the Central Criminal Court. Four men deny charges of murder, and it was said that two of the men, after the first murder, discussed earning money by obtaining burnt

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Senior surgeon arrested

Mr Paul Vickers, aged 43, a senior surgeon in northeast England, was arrested by police who had begun investigating the death of his wife 15 years ago. He is understood to have accompanied Northumbria police officers from London to Newcastle upon Tyne. Miss Pamela Collison, aged 32, a friend of Mr Vickers, was also arrested.

TUC warning on unrest

TUC leaders are to draw up a warning of widespread social unrest over rising unemployment which they will present to the Prime Minister when they meet her next week. However, some leaders are to oppose another part of the TUC policy paper offering unique cooperation if the Government agrees to joint consultations on policy.

Priest's challenge

A Roman Catholic priest's recommendation that investments should be withdrawn from 10 British companies with overseas interests has been accepted by the trustees of the Archdiocese of Birmingham's £72.5m investment fund.

The companies are named in a statement as failing a moral fitness test formulated by Father Patrick O'Mahoney of Solihull.

Banking strike call

Representatives of 6,000 bankers on construction sites throughout Britain have decided to seek a national strike.

Airport fees

The British Airports Authority, facing legal action over a 35 per cent increase in landing fees at Heathrow, said that another increase would be needed next spring.

US elections

Mr George McGovern, the Senate's best known liberal, is fighting for his political life in the primaries.

Turkey executions agreed

Turkey's ruling National Security Council has approved the death sentences imposed by martial law tribunals on four terrorists who killed seven people in two attacks on cafes in Ankara. If the executions go ahead they will be the first in Turkey since 1972. Death sentences have been imposed on 22 others who killed 100 people at Kahramanmaraş in 1978.

Mr Martens tries again

Mr Wilfried Martens, the caretaker Belgian Prime Minister, is planning a new coalition. The Government's resignation was accepted by King Baudouin after the failure of talks aimed at saving it. On Saturday the King asked for a final attempt to avoid a split.

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Court 8-9

Appointments 15

Arts 9

John Higgins meets David Steel

director of the film "The Blueprint", which opens in London tomorrow; Mr Ned Chalier on David Mercer's "No Limits to Love"; the "Wild Duck" at the Lyric; Hammersmith; Max Harrison on the George Shearing Quartet; page 12, 13; Pogues; Fassina and Cowan in England's "World Cup" party; Ritchie Davies; transfer decision; Rugby Union; Sportsbooks leave for South American tour; Rugby League; Financial support for amateurs; withdrawal; Obituary; page 16; Sir Gordon Russell; Admiral Sir

Geoffrey Hawkins; Brigadier Derek Mills-Roberts

Business News, pages 17-22

Stock Markets: The banking figures made little impact on gilt which drifted after an initial rally.

Prices were below their last set close of 1977, 17.71, index, 2.

1.1 to 483.3

Financial Editor: Blue Circle; Belant; Sears Holdings; banking features;

Business Features: Clifford Webb

on changes at BT that have accompanied development of the company; Michael Green on why chairman of the Electricity Council is resigning.

Entertainment: Personal, pages 27, 28; La Dame de la Nuit, 25, 26; Appointments, 25; Property, 23, 24

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Letters: Personal, pages 27, 28; Business, 7-11; Overseas News, 7-8; Court, 8-9; Letters, 15, 16; Diary, 16

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HOME NEWS

Bodies of six murder victims were dismembered and burnt in grate, prosecution alleges

By Richard Ford

The bodies of six murder victims were cut up and burnt on a grate in a council flat. Mr David Tudor Price, for the prosecution, said at the Central Criminal Court yesterday at the trial of four men accused of murder.

After successfully murdering the owner of a toy business, two of the men discussed earning money by killing people. Among their victims were Mr George Brett and his son Terry, aged 10, on January 4, 1975, of Robert Winston Brown between November 31 and December 31, 1975, of Frederick Sherwood between July 31 and August 3, 1975, and of Ronald Andrews between October 12 and 15, 1978.

Terence Pinfold, aged 47, of Wallington Road, Seven Kings, Essex, who is charged with the murder of Terence Eve, was arrested on October 12 and 15, 1978.

Mr MacKenny shot Mr Brown twice in the back of the head, but the shots did not kill him. He was attacked with an axe and stabbed before eventually being impaled on the floor with a swordstick.

Mr Morton-Thurle hired Mr Childs and Mr MacKenny to kill Frederick Sherwood because he owed Mr Sherwood money and was finding it difficult to repay it. Mr Childs and Mr MacKenny agreed to kill Mr Sherwood for £4,000, with payment being made by one instalment of £1,500 and the remaining amount of £2,500.

After learning that Mr MacKenny then strangled him with a rope.

The body was wrapped in a tarpaulin and the hall washed and cleaned. Mr MacKenny and Mr Childs dismembered the body in Mr Childs' flat in Poplar, east London, with a knife and saw. The house's built-in electric current was not enough to get the mincing machine to work properly, so Mr MacKenny tried to flush pieces of the body down the toilet.

That was so slow that they decided to burn the body, and the ashes and bones were thrown out of the window of a moving car on the Barking bypass.

Mr Childs would say that after that killing, the three of them discussed obtaining contracts to kill. For their next murder, they were paid £1,800. Mr Leonard Thompson, who also provided them with Stargun and a kilogram of gunpowder, had a grudge against Mr Brett because he had given evidence against him in a court case after the two men had fought. They hatched a plan to burn Mr Brett from his home to the hall on the pretext that Mr Childs, using a fictitious name, wanted some haulage work done.

Mr Childs went to Mr Brett's house dressed as a City businessman, complete with bowler hat, and Mr Brett agreed to follow him in his car. When Mr Childs' car would not start, Mr Brett got a rope to tow it, and "tragically as it turned out, it gave an opportunity to young Terry to go with his father for the ride."

On arrival at the hall Mr MacKenny shot Mr Brett through the back of the head twice, and then drove through the front of his head.

Mr Childs was holding the ten-year-old with his hand clasped over his mouth, and MacKenny put the stun gun to the boy's head with a piece of piping, but when it became difficult to kill him, Mr Childs joined in using a hammer, and Mr

shot." The bodies were dismembered with a saw and butcher's knife and slowly burnt before the ashes were dumped.

The next victim was to be Robert Brown, an escapee from Chelmsford Prison, who was living on a camp bed at the hall and who had seen all the blood after the murder of Mr Eve.

Mr Childs' account was that Mr MacKenny shot Mr Brown twice in the back of the head, but the shots did not kill him. He was attacked with an axe and stabbed before eventually being impaled on the floor with a swordstick.

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The burial crown of Queen Kristina the Elder of Sweden to be shown in an exhibition of court jewels at the Victoria and Albert Museum.

Laggers' delegates back strike call

By Our Labour Reporter

Laggers' representatives yesterday decided to seek a national strike as three unions which have defied the TUC formula for a settlement of the Isle of Grain dispute came to a stalemate in suspension from the TUC.

About 30 delegates representing 6,000 laggers on big construction sites throughout Britain voted to recommend that their union, the General and Municipal Workers (GMWU), calls an official strike aimed at safeguarding their hold on insulation work in the industry.

In the Isle of Grain dispute, substitute laggers have taken over from GMWU members. The union claims attempts have been made to keep it out of lagging work at the petrochemical sites at Pembroke and Milford Haven.

The laggers yesterday called for an emergency meeting of the GMWU executive to make picketing at the sites in south Wales official. Five men were arrested on Monday when 500 tried to bar the entrance to the Texaco site at Pembroke.

The unions facing suspension, the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers (AUEW) construction and engineering sections, and the Electrical, Electronic, Telecommunications and Plumbing Union (EETPU) yesterday decided to stay at the sites until a similar strike had been threatened before, but not implemented.

Mr Baldwin said that a reply from Mr Murray to a request for a round-table meeting to reach a settlement had been helpful.

Mr David Basnett, general secretary of the GMWU, has been visited by his executive with the authority to take any action he deems appropriate in the dispute, but was unlikely to call a strike without first consulting national and other officials.

Mr Frank Cottam, GMWU national officer, responsible at present for the GMWU, attended yesterday's meeting.

He said: "I think that a similar strike had been threatened before, but not implemented. He pointed out that there was no little room for the TUC to intervene further since it had exhausted its procedures over the Isle of Grain.

But they also agreed to call their executives together on

Strike threat to bread production

By Donald MacIntyre

Labour Reporter

Bread production could be disrupted from next week after a decision by flour mill engineers to strike unless a 15 per cent pay offer is improved in talks today.

Meetings among maintenance craftsmen at flour mills throughout the country have voted by four to one to back their union leaders and reject an offer accepted by 4,000

members of the Manpower Services Commission.

"Every job lost by

state spending is one

more lost in the sector," the TUC has confirmed as

negotiations to discuss with Government on the basis of a

TUC plans warning over unemployment

By Paul Routledge

Labour Editor

TUC leaders will today draw up a warning of widespread social unrest over rising unemployment, to take to Mrs Margaret Thatcher when they meet her for talks at 10 Downing Street next week.

The threat is in a confidential policy paper being discussed by the TUC Economic Committee, which offers trade union cooperation with the Government if ministers agree to joint consultations with the unions on social and economic policy.

But the idea of such collaboration will be opposed by some union leaders this morning. They argue that the TUC would be playing into the Government's hands by offering any cooperation with the Thatcher administration.

Opposition Labour MPs drew up the paper, reflecting industrial agreements at the time of the miners' strike, in which the unemployment rate was reduced only slightly.

They argue that the TUC should lead to widespread unemployment.

"The TUC has confirmed its intention to discuss with Government on the basis of a

wide-ranging, agreed agenda which covers any issue raised, but there has been no response from the Government.

That conclusion is reached in an indirect roundabout way by some union leaders this morning.

Government economic policies open by persuading the TUC of breaching the 1979 party pledge to achieve employment in the UK.

It goes on to demand the Government to estimate for unemployment which the TUC believes will be well in excess of 2.5 million.

Mrs Thatcher and her ministers should be asked to "Do you agree that the lead to widespread unemployment is correct?"

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Unions seek to clarify 'News' agreement

By David Pelton

Labour Reporter

Senior editorial executives of Associated Newspapers and Express Newspapers will today attempt to allay the suspicions of printing unions that some details of the agreement between the two groups on the closure of the London Evening News are being kept secret.

A meeting with officials of Associated Newspapers and Express Newspapers will be held tonight when the groups' executives will be asked to clarify aspects of the deal under which the offer accepted by the Evening Standard will be launched next month.

Unions fear that if in London is stopped signal, the eventual closure of the newspaper. However, thought that some of it will be held.

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HOME NEWS

Rampton inquiry is not likely to urge disclosure of hospital

By Lucy Hedges
Through the Prison Officers Association, are able to veto innovation. Mr Oliver Thorold, MIND's assistant legal director, says:

The Boynton report is believed to recommend the abolition of one of the controversial nursing arrangements at Rampton, where the medical director, Dr Patrick Jenkins, Secretary of State for Social Services, and is believed not to recommend the closure of the hospital for mentally abnormal offenders.

However, many observers support its closure, saying the institution has remained resistant to very recent change for many years.

The report of the committee of inquiry, whose chairman was Mr John Baynton, the former chief Executive of Cheshire County Council, is expected to be published shortly. It is likely to insist on the medical director having full executive authority over all staff at the hospital, as Dr Patrick McGrath does at Broadmoor.

Rampton is run by the Department of Health and Social Security. No one at the hospital, or the local authority, can refer patients to the DESS offices at Elephant and Castle, London.

The strongest voice in management is the nursing staff, according to evidence to the inquiry from MIND, the International Association for Mental Health. The nurses often

BL unveils 'make or break' Metro

By Peter Waymark
Motoring Correspondent

The Austin mini Metro, the car that could decide the future of British Leyland, is officially unveiled today after months of speculation. It goes on sale next Tuesday.

BL has invested £275m in the Metro project, making it clear that the success of the car is vital to the company's survival.

If the Metro fails, it could mean the end of Austin Morris, which employs most of the workforce.

The Metro, a name chosen by the workforce, will compete in the tough small hatchback sector against established European and Japanese models like the Ford Fiesta, Volkswagen Polo, Fiat 127, Renault 5, Honda Civic and Toyota Starlet.

BL expects to sell 75,000 Metros a year in Britain at first, taking about 5 per cent of the new car market, and exports to America will start in the spring. The car does not replace the Mini, which remains in production after 21 years.

The company is claiming three clear advantages for the Metro over its main rivals: outstanding fuel consumption, the most effective use of interior space, and the lowest servicing costs in its class.

There are five models, with a choice of 998 cc and 1275 cc engines. The cheapest car is the one-litre at £3,095; the HLE high compression economy version costs £3,695 and the top model is the 1.3 litre HLS at £4,295.

Government figures indicate the HLE Metro is the most economical car available in Britain, returning 41.5 miles per gallon in town driving, 58.3 mpg at 50 mph and 41.7 mpg at 75 mph. The Automobile Association has obtained 83 mpg.

The Metro is the first popular car with 12-month, or 12,000-mile service intervals



The Metro: In its favour, lowest fuel and servicing costs in its class and most effective use of interior space.

and according to BL figures, routine servicing in the first four years, at present charges, costs only £191, compared with £235 on the Fiesta, £239 on the Polo and £275 on the Starlet.

A three-door car, the Metro is, at 11ft 2in up to 7in shorter than other cars in its class. But it is said to have as much, and in some cases more, passenger and luggage space.

The rear seat is split into two unequal portions which fold

down separately. The longer portion can take two children, while the shorter section can be folded to make way for a suitcase or other large object.

The Metro engines, mounted transversely and driving the front wheels, are derived from the overhead valve engine of the Polo and £275 on the Starlet.

The rear seat is split into two unequal portions which fold

down independently. The longer portion is based on the Hydrolast system used on other BL models.

The Metro is being built in a new highly automated factory at Longbridge, near Birmingham, claimed to be the most modern in Europe. BL hopes to reach full capacity of 6,500 a week by the middle of next year.

Can Metro save BL? page 19

Councils are warned over cash control

By Christopher Warman
Local Government Correspondent

Local government faces a bleak future and is in danger of declining into a system of local agencies for central government, the Rating and Valuation Association conference, meeting at Llandudno, was told yesterday.

Mr Terry Cheetah, a former director of finance for Sutton Borough Council and now a director of the brokers, Buxton's and MMB Ltd, emphasized that the shape of local government was changing.

With proper consultation and cooperation a new and sleeker local government could emerge, he said. Without goodwill, or a general desire for local government to fulfil its historic role, the situation would change into a system of local agencies.

Mr Cheetah said that to be effective local government needed control over finance.

"For that, local government must maintain its financial independence and not least must continue its own taxation system. Without that, local self-government must become a myth."

He deplored the widespread belief that anything undertaken by local government was bad by definition, probably unnecessary and certainly expensive. The outcry against local government expenditure was part of the outcry against public expenditure generally and it could be that local government was over-sensitive.

On occasions, however, it is difficult to avoid the impression that the criticism of public expenditure overall is being cleverly diverted to a criticism of local government.

Mr Cheetah argued that the greater freedom promised for local authorities by the Government in its legislation was illusory, and would effectively be the freedom to spend a very small amount of money.

The most significant development in local government finance is the increasing intrusion of central government control."

A devout Protestant refuses to be intimidated.

Stir over houses sold to Catholics

By Christopher Thomas

It is October and the Portadown farm of Mr Neil Stothers, and his wife, Roman Catholics, two old friends, have been sold to a Protestant.

Mr Stothers was outraged. He had gone to great lengths to tell his branch officials how the "matter" came about.

He said yesterday: "I explained that over the past 10 years I had left the house myself except for two short spells when there were Protestant tenants. I did not charge rent to one of them, but he would not stay because the house was too close to a Catholic ghetto."

He insisted that no Protestant had ever offered to buy, despite repeated advertising. "There was no alternative. I sold one house last March and the other in May."

Mr Stothers is known by everybody in the Portadown area. His ancestors, Scottish Presbyterians, arrived on the site 400 years ago.

He is a controversial figure. He was suspended from the Orange Order for two years after an incident during "Glorious Twelfth" celebrations in August 1971. It was a life ban originally, but Mr Stothers is not one who submits easily.

"Further to the matter dis-

Drug used by dentist was contaminated, inquest told

By Our Correspondent

A man who fell ill and died after visiting a dentist for fillings was given a general anaesthetic which had become contaminated, an inquest in Whitehaven, West Cumbria, was told yesterday.

The inquiry heard that Mr Paul Pickering, aged 25, of Egremont, developed agonizing pains after leaving the surgery of Mr Neil Forster in Egremont. He fell into a coma and died in hospital last Saturday, 7 days later.

Another man, Mr David McAllister, aged 20, also of Egremont, became seriously ill after receiving treatment at the same surgery on the same day, but was since fully recovered.

Both had been injected with a general anaesthetic which tests later showed to have been contaminated. Mr Pickering's parents told their son was brought home

from the surgery on September 18 by the dentist and a doctor.

Mr William Pickering said: "Paul was put to bed because he was in agony from pain in his back. His wife became frightened when she started bleeding from the mouth and after he was given two injections by the doctor he was taken into hospital by ambulance."

Before adjourning the inquest to a date to be fixed, Mr Arthur Walker, the West Cumbria coroner, said he had not yet been given the results of the post mortem examination.

Mr Bryan Benson, a Health Office pathologist, had carried out the post mortem examination, but other tests had still to be made.

The Medical Protection Society, who are representing Mr Forster, say the anaesthetic Methohexitone, which is commonly used, somehow became contaminated "prior to use".

They were supplying a basic metal brooch to which the description "in 24 carat gold plate" was applied, and supplying such brooches described as "crafted in gold metal plate".

Mr Peter Harris, for Surrey County Council, said a brooch advertised in a newspaper was purchased for £9.50 and sent

for assay. It was found to be a tin-based alloy thinly plated with gold.

It was well known that gold plate did not mean gold-plated, Mr Harris said.

Mr Murdoch Gair, for the company, said it was a multi-national concern with a sales turnover last year of £150m.

The company had no intention of deceiving anybody", Mr Gair said. Advertisements in other newspapers were correct.

The fine was £250 for each offence, plus legal costs of £75 and £9.50 for the brooch.

Franklin Mint Ltd of London

was fined £500 yesterday for selling teddy bear brooches wrongly described as "gold plate". The company pleaded guilty before Woking magistrates to two offences.

They were supplying a basic metal brooch to which the description "in 24 carat gold plate" was applied, and supplying such brooches described as "crafted in gold metal plate".

Mr Peter Harris, for Surrey County Council, said a brooch

advertised in a newspaper was purchased for £9.50 and sent

for assay. It was found to be a tin-based alloy thinly plated with gold.

It was well known that gold plate did not mean gold-plated, Mr Harris said.

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HOME NEWS



A United Dairies' milk float, built about 1935, on its final journey yesterday to the Science Museum where it will form part of the commercial vehicles collection.

Photograph by Brian Hales

Priest challenges international giants in moral fitness test

By Clifford Longley
Religious Affairs Correspondent

Ten British companies with interest overseas have been named today in a statement as failing a moral fitness test formulated by a Roman Catholic parish priest in Birmingham, and will be one corporate shareholder less.

The David who challenged the international Goliaths is Father Patrick O'Mahony, of Our Lady of the Wayside, Smethwick, who has a formidable reputation for human rights campaigning and fund-raising.

Based on his own research into more than a hundred companies, his recommendation to withdraw investments from 10 of them has been accepted by the trustees of the Archdiocese of Birmingham's £2.5m investment fund.

Armed with a typewriter and a sharp eye for newspaper reports about British companies abroad, Father O'Mahony has pursued sensitive management of companies concerned with his litany of difficult questions.

Five companies, Beechams, Courtaulds, Allied Breweries, P and O, and John Brown, brushed aside Father O'Mahony's letters. The chairman and chief

executive of Allied Breweries, Mr Keith Shoveling, wrote back: "With reference to your letter of January 7, we do not propose to answer your questionnaire."

Companies like Shell Transport and Trading and Burmah Oil replied with great courtesy and detail, sometimes seeking additional information from the heads of overseas branches.

In some cases it seems obvious that a particular situation has received board-room attention; it would not have had if Father O'Mahony had not prompted an inquiry.

One senior executive wrote him a scribbled note assuring him that his conscience was clear, and he would have had nothing to do with a company that traded in an ethically questionable way.

Father O'Mahony said yesterday that some companies were obviously delisted to explain themselves and showed a high degree of responsibility.

The other five companies on Father O'Mahony's black list were judged by him to have failed to supply adequate information, or had subsidiaries in South Africa which paid wages which he judged were unacceptable low.

Some of those companies, named as BICC, British Electric

Traktion, ETR, Glynwed, and Creda International, had gone back: "With reference to your letter of January 7, we do not propose to answer your questionnaire."

Coinciding with the announcement by the Roman Catholic Trustees, Father O'Mahony has published a large collection of his correspondence with big business.

It shows how he interrogated high company officials on subjects ranging from the sale of drugs in the Third World to oil pollution in Canada and mining in Aboriginal territory in Australia.

He gently urges Traction to set an example to others less well known: "defends himself against the charge from British Electric Traktion that he is being uncharitable"; and pins Mr Wedgwood Benn to the admission that the Labour Government had failed to prevent British uranium mining in Namibia.

Father O'Mahony and his parish have been nominated for the Human Rights Prize of the Council of Europe, by the British Council of Churches, of which the Roman Catholic church is not a member.

Multinational and Human Rights. Patrick J. O'Mahony (Mayhew McCrimmon Ltd, £5).

GP's drinking study urged

By Our Health Services Correspondent

Doctors' drinking habits should be investigated to increase the profession's understanding of alcoholism and excessive drinking, Professor Philip Rhodes, Postgraduate Dean of Southampton University, said yesterday.

The rate of alcohol-related disorders among doctors is 24 times higher than among other members of social class one. Doctors should be asked to cooperate in an investigation into their drinking practices just as they cooperated in research into their smoking habits, he said.

Professor Rhodes, who was speaking at the annual meeting of the Medical Council on

Alcoholism in London, said that the research into doctors' smoking habits had helped to increase understanding of disorders related to smoking and that cooperation from doctors on alcohol research could similarly raise levels of understanding.

Attitudes were hard to change but could be changed over time, as they had been with regard to smoking.

There was a need to foster social disapproval of drunkenness, Professor Rhodes said. It was harder to get the message about the dangers of alcoholism across to consultants than to family doctors, and yet consultants were important as sources of trends and changes of attitudes.

In brief

Rock star choked after 40 vodkas

John Bonham, aged 32, drummer with the rock group, Led Zeppelin, died on September 25 through inhaling vomit after drinking about 40 measures of vodka in 12 hours, an inquest at Windsor, Berkshire, was told yesterday. A verdict of accidental death was recorded.

Mr Rex King, the drummer's personal assistant, said he had helped him to bed after he had "dozed off" in a sofa at the home of Jimmy Page, the group's guitarist. He was found dead next morning.

Dutch challenge Britain's art export laws

By Geraldine Norman
Sale Room Correspondent

The Rijksmuseum, Amsterdam, has challenged the legality of Britain's art export laws under the Treaty of Rome. That emerges from the annual report of the Reviewing Committee of the Export of Works of Art, 1978-79, published yesterday.

The challenge arose over a silver plaque of the "Adoration of the Shepherds", dated 1617 by Paul van Vianen, which the Rijksmuseum had bought at Christie's, for £82,500. Van Vianen is considered one of the greatest Dutch silversmiths.

The Victoria and Albert Museum objected to its export and a hearing of the committee was called to consider withholding a licence.

A representative of the Rijksmuseum attended the hearing and said that two of the criteria used to judge what are national treasures lay outside the treaty's terms, namely: "Is it of outstanding aesthetic importance?" and, "Is it of outstanding significance for the study of some particular branch of art, science or history?"

On a direct comparison with Britain's history and national life was a permitted ground for preventing export, he said.

The Government, after consultations, appears to have decided that it could be both a Dutch and a British national treasure. The export licence was withheld and the plaque was acquired by the Royal Scottish Museum.

Murder verdict appeal

Four men jailed for the killing of Carl Bridgewater, aged 13, are appealing against their conviction after claims that new evidence has come to light.

There was a strong possibility that the four men, James Robinson, Patrick Molloy, Michael Hickey and Vincent Hickey were wrongly convicted, according to Justice, the all-party lawyers' organization.

Mr Tony Erver, a solicitor for the defence at their trial, has submitted to Justice documents recently released to him by the Director of Public Prosecutions, which disclose details



For many elderly people, going into a "Home" seems like the end of the world.

Nevertheless, our headline is a typical quotation from one of our residents' letters.

The Distressed Gentlefolk's Aid Association runs a particular type of Home for a particular type of person. Not just what is implied by the "Gentlefolk" in our title. Just anyone, man or woman, who will fit in with our other residents.

We have 13 Homes in all. Some Residential, some full Nursing Homes. Anyone who needs a Home but who lacks the necessary financial resources can apply to the DGAA for help.

Places are short, because money is short. Your donation is urgently required. And please do remember the DGAA when making out your will.

DISTRESSED GENTLEFOLK'S AID ASSOCIATION

VICARAGE GATE HOUSE, VICARAGE GATE, KENSINGTON LONDON NW1 4AC

"Help them grow old with dignity"

WEST EUROPE

France surprises Community by accepting agreement on budget repayments to Britain

From Michael Hornby
Luxembourg, Oct 7

EUROPEAN ministers reached agreement here today on the method and timing of the repayment to Britain of part of the EEC budget contribution in line with the community's budget for 1981.

The agreement, described by Lord Carrington, the Foreign Secretary, as "very satisfactory", effectively removes the threat of a French veto on the programme which had caused a possibility a few weeks ago.

Under the arrangement agreed today, which are due to go into effect from November 1, Britain can expect to get nearly 60 per cent off the reburden it is due for calendar 1980 and 1981 by March 31 of the following year in each case.

This means that Britain should receive £100 million in March about £570m of the £520m it is entitled to receive as a budget contribution. The rest would follow later in the year.

A timetable of this order would be roughly in line with Mrs Thatcher's insistence that

Britain should get "the bulk" of the annual refund due within the British financial year, which runs from April to April.

About two-thirds of the refund will take the form of EEC aid for public-sector spending programmes in Britain. The types of programmes qualifying for this aid, which had been another point of contention, were also agreed today.

They include investment in the promotion of energy resources, the modernization of road and rail infrastructure, urban renewal sewage facilities and other regional development projects.

The French had initially given President Giscard some private understanding about next year's farm-price fixing during her recent visit to France. But Lord Carrington insisted that there was absolutely no link between today's agreement and the farm-price settlement.

The only commitment Britain had given, Lord Carrington said, was a reaffirmation of its intention, along with other member states, to get a new EEC fisheries policy established by the end of the year.

Mr Martens, Belgium's care

Prime Minister, tonight announced plans for a four-party coalition grouping Socialists and Socialists and Radicals, who would open formal negotiations for a new government tomorrow.

It would have the effect of drawing up a wide-ranging to restructure and stimulate economy, he told a conference.

King Baudouin accepted resignation of the Government today after intensive negotiations had failed to hold the coalition together.

Mr Martens offered resignation of Socialists to the King asked for a last chance to end the economic crisis.

The Government, said when the Liberals, urging rigorous financial policies failed to ratify what they termed "cosmetic" measures. In particular, they insisted on unemployment benefits both husband and wife in.

The Socialists resisted Liberals.

A statement today said Baudouin had asked Ministers of the Flemish Christians to try to form a government while the our Cabinet stayed on in a caretaker capacity.

Party leaders had been meeting Mr Martens since Saturday to draw up a new formal much-needed cuts in spending.

But political sources said right-wing Liberals in coalition called for greater in social spending than Martens proposed. After going on to the early of today, the Liberals ran split. They made up coalition with the Christians and Socialists party is divided into Dutch French-speaking wings.

Mr Martens had brought Liberals into the Government his third since becoming Prime Minister early last year—a two-thirds majority in Parliament for constitutional changes. limited autonomy Dutch and French-speaking regions.

Mr Martens narrowly av another crisis, two weeks when to retain Socialist party, he shelved a decision basing new Nato weapons in Belgium. Re-

Protest over synagogue bombing brings rare display of solidarity

From Ian Murray
Paris, Oct 7

In a rare display of solidarity, representatives of all four main political groupings as well as the two main trade union organizations were called by Paris' "solidarity" leaders through a march through Paris this evening in protest at Friday's synagogue bombing.

The march had originally been called by Mouvement contre le Racisme et pour l'Amitié entre les Peuples (MRAP), the French anti-racial organization, to demonstrate the public's anger at the bomb which exploded outside a synagogue in the west of Paris.

The march had been called by the police force's own internal inquiry department, since anonymous threatening calls.

If anything happens to any of our 30 colleagues your bus won't get much further." There have also been strong denials of the unions' claim by senior officers.

Allegations about neo-Nazis serving in the French Army were also made today by two organizations. One said that senior officers put up Fascist posters and carried out torture,

that 30 serving officers were on a list of names of members of the extreme right-wing National Front.

Defence, to take steps to stop existing racist propaganda inside the Army.

The "synagogue" bombing appears to have inspired a rash of attacks against Jewish property all round France. They have occurred in Troyes, Montpellier, Grenoble, Marseille and in Nice.

Apart from Nice there have also been large demonstrations protesting at the bombings in Strasbourg, Metz, Lyons, Rouen and Belfort.

Rome march: More than 5,000 Italian Jews marched through central Rome to the French Embassy today to protest at the Paris bombing. The marchers shouted: "Pacifist assassins" and slogans against the French Government and carried placards bearing the names of Second World War concentration camps—DPL.

Israel reaction, page 17

General urges Portuguese to follow through poll win

From Patricia Clough
Braga, Oct 7

Leaders of leftist, Germanic, victorious Social Democrats, Democratic coalition, meeting for the first time since the election, pledged to continue with their despite an security policy.

The debate on formal resolution is overshadowed by the presidential contest now moves into top gear.

The Cabinet last night told President Eanes that the 1976 constitution omitted to lay down any specific procedure for a government whose power is confirmed at that point, as is the present case.

The general, who had Dr Francisco Sá Carneiro, the Prime Minister, on his right at a packed press conference, made clear his belief that the President should not act in a way which prevented carrying out its functions.

But the procedure chosen, it told him in a statement, will serve to enhance the principles of Portugal's Parliament. Dr Francisco Sá Carneiro said already last night he would be available Sunday's poll. As far as possible, he should be uninterrupted to concentrate on important business, including the budget preparation and not sit idle while President Eanes went through formal consultations.

The Prime Minister in his victory press conference yesterday had described Simões' poll as virtually the first round of December's presidential contest and a defeat for Eanes.

The Government has told President Eanes that it intends to dispense with the formal process of tendering resignations and renomination.

Instead the Cabinet decided last night to put down a confidence motion when the new Assembly of the Republic will be seated.

The Government is committed anyway to abolish the Council of the Revolution, the armed forces watchdog, and with that President Eanes is to agree.

The Government is committed without limiting personal freedom—declaration of intent to resist pressure, particularly from the Opposition, to take repressive measures for the sake of law and order.

Herr Kohl was clearly attempting to pave the way for a future change of government.

The parliamentary almost unanimously elected Herr Kohl as their floor leader for the next legislature.

Looking forward to the possibility that the ruling coalition could break up, Herr Kohl urged the CDU and CSU to themselves "capable of a consensus" with either of the coterie parties.

Herr Kohl was clearly attempting to pave the way for a future change of government.

Spanish accept entry to EEC

From Our Own Correspondent

Paris, Oct 7

Spain seems to have accepted some delay is now inevitable before it can be accepted as a member of the EEC.

The date for Spanish entry provisionally fixed for Jan 1, 1983, will probably have to be put off for a few months.

Sen. Eduardo Ponsu, the Spanish Minister for Regional Development, said today after meeting French leaders:

"We have to wait for the other 12,000 members of Europe to find their place."

The EEC is full of confidence after the success of the boycott and convinced that a Belgian survey does not mean that prove its original findings.

During tomorrow's hearing the organization does not intend to call a detailed defense.

It is waiting instead for a report from the State Council on the legality of the decision by the Government to refuse to award the contracts to be withdrawn.

URC in one of 11 consumer organizations in France, with 50,000 enrolled members, magazine "One Choisir" is soon to publish 300,000 copies a month and has a million readers.

Cardinal seeks annulment trend

From Peter Nichols

OVERSEAS

Turkish junta ratifies death sentences for terrorist murders

From Susan Pasek

Istanbul, Oct 7
The ruling National Security Council, chaired by General Evren, has approved the death sentences passed on four terrorists—two from the right and two from the left—on trial for the killing of 12 people.

The penalties pronounced by Ankara's martial law tribunal against Isik Armanan and Mustafa Pehlivanoglu, both rightists, and Necdet Adali and Ahmet Ergin, both leftists, had been submitted to the Turkish parliament by the Court of Appeals before the coup in September.

The five-man National Security Council, which is assuming the powers of Parliament until the creation of a new assembly, approved the special law which must be enacted for the death sentence to be carried out.

Mr Armanan, aged 24, and Mr Pehlivanoglu, aged 22, were found guilty of the "Balat massacre," named after the Balat district where the two led five people and wounded 15 others during a raid on a cafe patronized by left-wing sympathizers.

The day that their files were sent to parliament for final approval, they managed to escape from the maximum security prison at Marmak, near Ankara. A number of personnel at the military prison were arrested in connection with the escape and, although Mr Pehlivanoglu was later recaptured, Mr Armanan is still free.

Mr Ergin and Mr Adali, also their enemies, were condemned to death for a similar offence, having killed two people in a machine-gun attack on Ankara's Tekfizler area against a cafe frequented by gypsies. If the sentences are carried

out, the men will be the first people to be executed in Turkey since May 1972 when three leaders of the leftist Turkish People's Liberation Army were hanged.

Several other death sentences have been passed by military tribunals, including those against 22 people accused of armed robbery and mass murder during the Kahrnamanmaraş incidents which left more than a hundred people dead in December, 1978.

Another sentence now before the Military Court of Appeals is that of Sehitcan Saygın, a lessor important convicted of participating in the murder of Captain Ahmet Aycı, who was killed in Adana just two days after the military takeover.

Yet another file which is reported to have been sent to the National Security Council for approval is that of Mehmet Ali Aycı, the right-wing extremist sentenced to die for the murder last year of Ahmet Ipakci, the editor-in-chief of the independent daily *Milliye*. Mr Aycı, too, is a fugitive, having escaped from the military prison at Kartal, in Istanbul, about 10 months ago.

The death sentences against Mr Pehlivanoglu, Mr Ergin and Mr Adali will be carried out by the civilian authorities at the Ankara penitentiary. Meanwhile, the Ankara prosecutor has decided that the investigations of more than 70 former MPs under arrest since September 12 had been completed and that their files had been sent to the competent tribunals.

The arrested MPs are accused of a number of offences committed while they enjoyed parliamentary immunity, and could therefore be neither investigated nor tried.

Sunken fortune starts political dispute

By Peter Hazelhurst

Akyo, Oct 7
A fortune in sunken treasure, reported to be lying in the wreck of a Russian battle cruiser which was sunk in 310 ft of water during the Russo-Japanese War 75 years ago, has raised a new dispute between Tokyo and Moscow.

Today, as a group of British Japanese divers continued their attempts to retrieve the treasure, the Soviet Union would have to hand back its spoils from the Second World War in Japanese islands which were occupied by Russia for 35 years.

The latest attempt by controversial Japanese businessman to recover what has been described as the richest and all taken treasure ever found. Last month when a diving bell and underwater anchored five fathoms off the Japanese coast at Tsushima Island, it was

there that the 8,500-ton battle

cruiser the Admiral Nachimov on May 27, 1905, a turning point in the Russo-Japanese war.

The divers, who were hired by ship salvaging contractor, Marine Development Corporation, have apparently located the wreck of the cruiser, retrieving a platinum bar weighing 22 lb last month.

Historical notes indicate that the Admiral Nachimov was trying a fortune in gold, gold coins and platinum bars when she left European waters in 1904 to reinforce the Russian fleet in the Pacific.

Mr Kazumi Tamana, president of the Nippon Maritime Development Corporation, is involved in the operation. In my personal view there is nearly £1,000m down there in gold and platinum. Under international law

the Soviet Union has no basis to its claim," he said.

The cruiser and 23 other Russian ships were sunk or captured during a decisive sea battle which led to a Japanese victory in the war.

Since then Japanese and other treasure hunters have made 2,484 unsuccessful attempts to prise the fortune from the hold of The Admiral Nachimov. The latest attempt has been sponsored by Mr Ryuchi Sagawa, a well known businessman and former war criminal. He is 81, a multi-millionaire in his own right and the owner of a controversial motorboat gambling syndicate.

His spokesman says that Mr Sagawa has invested considerable sums in the treasure hunt. "Mr Sagawa says that if the Soviet Union wants to retrieve the treasure then it will have to return Japanese territory, which was occupied at the end of the Second World War," the spokesman said.

British and Japanese divers on the project say they have so far located 30 ingots, but they are not certain whether the reported fortune is actually within the hold of the wreck.

The *Treasure Divers Guide* says the task of salvaging the gold and platinum from The Admiral Nachimov is daunting. "In addition to problems of bad weather during most parts of the year, strong currents and great depths, there is another wicked factor: the cruiser's ammunition, which could be exploded."

Bad weather has disrupted diving for several weeks but operations were resumed yesterday from the tender barge, the Ten Oh (Heavenly Response), which was built in Japan in Shimonoseki at a cost of £500,000.

Most of the underwater work is being done by British divers. At present the barge is serving a diving bell which can operate at a depth of 500 feet. The divers say they are able to enter the ship with ease because previous expeditions have made large holes in the upper decks with high explosives.

Hongkong dogs killed after boy dies from rabies

From Our Correspondent

Hongkong, Oct 7
Stray dogs in Hongkong are being exterminated because of a rabies outbreak.

On Saturday, an eight-year-old boy died two months after being bitten by a stray, the first rabies death in Hongkong for 25 years.

Nearly 300 dogs have been destroyed since Saturday and 2 people have been treated for bites.

The authorities' action was astened by recent reports of many rabies deaths around Canton and in Chinese villages, towns and ports near Hongkong.

Britain keen to clear way for Belize independence

Our Diplomatic Correspondent

Britain is keen to press forward in granting Belize its independence, but has made it clear that there can be no ceding of Belizean territory to Guatemala, or any settlement of the territorial problem which does not command the support of the Belizean people.

The fact that opinion at the United Nations is almost unanimously in favour of the British policy of self-determination for Belize is a strong point in Britain's favour in pushing for a speedy solution.

Korea's 'hot line' is cut off by the North

From Jacqueline Reddin

Seoul, Oct 7

The "hot line" telephone link between Seoul and Pyongyang has been cut off by the North Koreans, according to an official statement issued here today.

Although the South Koreans had already said that their last call to North Korea on September 25 had not been answered, today's statement was the first official indication that the line had been intentionally disconnected.

The hot line was reopened in February this year when a series of talks began to find ways of setting up a meeting between the Prime Ministers of the two states. But North Korea decided to boycott the eleventh session of the talks scheduled for September 26, saying it could not discuss relations with the military-faced regime in the South.

Today's statement accused North Korea of "ignoring the proposals put forward by the South and of continuing to overthrow the South Korean Government."

It said that the North's decision to suspend the talks proved that it had used them only as a means to probe the political situation and stir up unrest in South Korea after the assassination of President Park Chung-Hee last year and the ensuing temporary confusion.

The South government yesterday accused the communists of falsely reporting that South Korea was supplying military spare parts to Iran.



Emperor Hirohito, who is 79, harvesting rice at a small paddy in the Imperial Palace. It will be offered to a shrine as the year's first crop.

Mr Fraser reserves right to block funds

From Douglas Aiton

Melbourne, Oct 7

Mr Malcolm Fraser, the Australian Prime Minister, indicated today that he would ask his supporters in the Senate to block supply of funds to a Labour government again if he found it necessary.

It was his action in doing this in 1975 that led to the dismissal of the Whitlam Government and the greatest constitutional crisis in Australia's history.

At that time, although Labour was in power, the Liberal Country Party coalition controlled the Senate. The blocking of supply, initiated by Mr Fraser who was then opposition leader led to Sir John Kerr, the Governor-General, dismissing Mr Gough Whitlam (who had refused to call an election), installing Mr Fraser as caretaker Prime Minister and calling an election.

Mr Fraser was asked at a journalists' luncheon in Sydney today if he would again block supply and replied: "If the circumstances exist that existed in 1975, and I ask you to remember what was happening in 1975, I would do everything I could to get rid of the government of the day."

Mr Fraser's potentially inflammatory remark comes at a time when it has become likely that this election, to be held on October 18, could be much closer than expected.

Although scepticism about opinion polls is strong, the fact that the Liberals are behind in all the main polls is starting to cause excitement.

It is quite clear that the Government is shaken by the polls.

predictions and that they expected that by now the pendulum would be swinging back their way. But yet another poll to be published tomorrow in the weekly magazine *The Bulletin*, puts Labour at 53 per cent and the Government at 47 per cent.

Mr Fraser's campaign has accordingly been changed into a far more hard-hitting effort, with him berating the Opposition, both professionally and personally.

In a short speech at the weekend, Mr Fraser used the word "socialist" 19 times. It is a word that does not often surface about the Australian Labour Party, which although socialist in some areas of policy, is nevertheless distinctly a supporter of private enterprise.

Mr Fraser's use of the word, and his constant reminders about the performance of the Whitlam Government, seem designed to scare the people away from voting Labour.

Further doubt about a government victory was displayed today by the stock exchanges in Sydney and Melbourne, both of which plunged.

Mr William Hayden, the Labour leader who has been taking the prospect of success philosophically and calmly, today challenged Mr Fraser to make available for public scrutiny.

While insisting he was not avoiding Mr Fraser of tax avoidance, Mr Hayden said both the Prime Minister and the leader of the Opposition should be subjected to such public scrutiny.

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The new concession turns the presidency from a largely ceremonial post into one where a powerful chief executive can both appoint and dismiss the Prime Minister and his Cabinet.

Mr Burham, whose opponents have accused him of trying to entrench himself for life, said after taking the oath of office, yesterday, that the nation's new basic law protected the people's rights.

The new concession turns the presidency from a largely ceremonial post into one where a powerful chief executive can both appoint and dismiss the Prime Minister and his Cabinet.

4 Currency Fluctuations Could mean that you get back in sterling less than you expected.

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At the sign of the Black Horse

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OVERSEAS McGovern fights to hold the prairies

From Patrick Brogan
Sioux Falls, Oct 7.

Mr George McGovern, the Senate's best known liberal, is fighting for his political life here this year. South Dakota is a deeply conservative state and the winds of conservatism are blowing strongly across the prairies and may carry Mr McGovern away with them.

He is running for reelection again, spending \$1.2m. on the campaign and assiduously showing himself at every meeting in every village in South Dakota. His challenger is Mr James Abdnor, who has been one of the state's two congressmen for the past eight years and has therefore managed to build up his own organization and his own popularity in that time. He also will spend over \$1m..

In 1974, which was a Democratic year anyway, Mr McGovern was reflected without much difficulty against an anti-war former prisoner of war in North Vietnam. This year is likely to be a Republican year and Mr Abdnor is more formidable opponent. Furthermore, Senator McGovern is at the top of the conservative "hit" list senators whom the Model Majority and other such organizations hope to defeat this year.

The National Conservative Political Action Committee (NCPAC) spent \$160,000 on attacking Senator McGovern here in television and newspaper advertisements, but abruptly ended their campaign early last summer when it became counterproductive. They are decent people up here and perhaps felt that the strident rhetoric of the ultra-right was inappropriate and unfair.

Mr Abdnor is not strident. Indeed, he has a studied air. This is one reason that so far he has refused to join debates against Senator McGovern. Another, rather naively, is never names Mr McGovern in his speeches, referring to him as "my opponent". When they attend the same public events, the senator makes a point of being nice to



The neighbours looked in when Mr Carter met the Loftus family in the garden of their Chicago home on Monday

his rival, chattering to him, patronizing him, embarrassing him. Mr Abdnor finds it rather difficult to cope with Senator McGovern.

One of the issues that the conservatives are using against Senator McGovern is abortion.

The senator is firmly against a constitutional amendment prohibiting abortion, and he supports spending government money on abortions for poor women who need them for social or medical reasons, and who could not pay for abortions themselves. Mr Abdnor thinks this is sinful. So does NCPAC, and so do many people in South Dakota.

A large majority of Americans (61 to 34 per cent in a Harris poll released this week) support Mr McGovern's views on the proposed amendment, but it is a matter of such

concern to some people that it colours their decisions on other matters, and can change the result of a close election. South Dakota is one of the most devoutly Christian states in the union.

US Elections

The senator opposed President Carter's embargo on the sale of grain to the Soviet Union. This is a farm state and his constituents are firmly against the embargo. It is also a Republican state and will vote solidly for Mr Reagan in November. One of Mr McGovern's views on the proposed amendment, but it is a matter of such

strongest arguments to persuade electors to "split the ticket"—vote for a Republican President and for a Democratic senator—is his position as second in seniority on the agricultural committee of the Senate.

The chairman of that committee is Senator Herman Talmadge of Georgia, who will probably be reelected himself next month, despite the scandals that have touched him. Mr McGovern would therefore remain second in command, but is none the less a position of great power and importance to him.

He will argue that if he is defeated, South Dakota will lose all its influence in Congress because the other senators and the two congressmen, one or both of whom will be newcomers, are among the most junior in both Houses.

Neo-Nazi threat brings unity not seen for years

Hints of help for Jews in Europe

From Christopher Walker
Jerusalem, Oct 7

At a time when internal ethnic and religious divisions are straining Israel's social fabric, the recent wave of neo-Nazi violence in Europe has unified the country in a way not experienced since the Yom Kippur war seven years ago.

From the left of the Opposition Labour Alignment, the most right-wing supporters of Mr Begin's coalition, the upsurge of anti-semitism, particularly in France, has provoked universal horror and determination that recent European history shall never be repeated.

The national mood was well illustrated after Sunday's Cabinet meeting in which the attacks on European Jewry were the dominant topic. Asked to comment on the atmosphere inside the Cabinet room, Dr Joseph Burg, the normally jocular Interior Minister, replied grimly: "Very sour and very bitter."

So far, the only prints for argument are how far the French Government should be publicly pilloried for the re-emergence of neo-fascism—and how Israel should best respond to a phenomenon only too familiar to the great majority of its citizens. Some Cahier members like Mr Haim Landau, the Trans-

por Minister—who claimed the current policies of the French administration reminded him of the infamous Vichy regime—were all for outright condemnation of France. But the majority counselled caution.

Already there have been hints from at least one senior official that if the French fail to deal with the terror threat, and if Jews in Europe prove unable to defend themselves, the duty of the Israeli Government would be to help them.

"No attempt was made to specify how much help could be given. But in the past, the Israeli secret service has often operated successfully on foreign soil, and already it is thought to have built up a detailed dossier on the new extreme right groups operating in Europe."

In such an atmosphere, there is considerable public sympathy here for the self-styled World Congress for the Defence of Oppressed Jewry. From its base in Tel Aviv, the organization is financing provided by the millionaire Kreisler member, Mr Samuel Flatto Sharon, to send small squads of Israeli vigilantes and ex-Army instructors to Paris.

An Israeli Foreign Ministry official explained this week: "The one factor which links terrorists of the extreme right and the extreme left is antisemitism. I have seen it happen in Latin America and I believe we are all now seeing it happen in Europe."

Increasing pressure to take action itself.

Although suspected of courting publicity, the Congress has provided a valuable safety value for frustrated Israelis.

"We believe that it is the job of Israel to protect Jews of the world—not just with words, but with action," the senior organizer, Mr Gilbert Amal, explained.

But it is not so much the reaction of the politicians and political activists that impresses an outsider. It is rather the repeated and passionate remarks of ordinary Israelis, many of whom are at the same time critical of many aspects of their own society.

The resurgence of European Nazism shows us one thing above all else—the crying need for Israel as a haven for Jews," said one London-born Jewish tour guide.

Most Israelis are convinced there is a direct link between Arab terrorism and the neo-Nazi groups although no convincing evidence has yet been offered.

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Mr Shamir said the statement that the Nine called for the "associ-

Israel appeal for EEC to strike at the PLO

From Michael Hornsby
Luxembourg, Oct 7

The EEC's pro-Arab diplomacy in the Middle East was an encouragement to anti-Jewish terrorism in Europe of the kind seen in last week's bombing of a synagogue in Paris. Mr Itzhak Shamir, the Israeli Foreign Minister said here today.

After a meeting with EEC Foreign Ministers to review trade relations between Israel and the Community, Mr Shamir urged the Nine "to strike at the most important source of this terrorism—the agencies of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) in Europe".

Mr Shamir said that a certain "certain connection" between the EEC's advocacy of PLO involvement in Middle East peace negotiations and the resurgence of anti-Semitism in Europe. I would advise European governments to be much more cautious in their relations with these terrorist groups in our region."

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It was in that statement that the Nine called for the "associ-

African Protestants pick leader from Madagascar

From Charles Harrison
Nairobi, Oct 7

The All Africa Conference of Churches, which links most of the Protestant churches in Africa, today appointed the Rev. Nivaro Maxima Ratrafantsa, of Madagascar, as its new general secretary.

The post has been occupied for more than a year by an acting general secretary, the Rev. Endriko Arokha, a Ghanaian. The last substantive holder of the post was Canon Burgess Carr, a Liberian Anglican, who was known as a forthright defender of the church's support for African liberation movements.

He clashed with the Kenyan Government, when he likened Kenya under the late President Jomo Kenyatta to Ethiopia before the revolution which overthrew the Emperor.

Canon Carr's engagement

was terminated last year after he had failed to return from a year's sabbatical.

Mr Ratrafantsa, aged 45, is married with three children. He is a member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Madagascar—the largest Protestant Church in Madagascar. He has been working at the headquarters of the World Council of Churches in Geneva, and graduated in theology and sociology at Geneva University.

Speaking after he had been chosen by the general committee of the conference from a short list of four candidates, he said he regarded his immediate task as one of reconciliation among the member churches in the conference—which has suffered during what has been described as its leadership crisis.

He endorsed the church's support for African liberation movements.

Carter promise to Nigeria on Namibian independence

From Our Own Correspondent
Washington, Oct 7

President Carter today sought to offset Nigerian criticism of the West's failure to bring independence to Namibia (South-West Africa) by promising a "sustained commitment" in the development there of a government based on majority rule and racial non-discrimination.

In the United Nations General Assembly in New York yesterday, President Alhaji Shagari of Nigeria said his country would "no longer tolerate the provocations by South Africa or the military tactics of her allies in the Western block with regard to self-determination."

President Shagari, a Democratic Representative from New York and a member of the House foreign affairs committee, said on his arrival here last night that he was hoping to see what moves the Nigerian leaders would make to improve their relations with the US.

It is a year since Senator Joseph Biden, the last Congressman to visit Moscow, was here

to accept his will more easily than Canadians."

Mr Joe Clark, leader of the Conservative Opposition in the Canadian Commons, has warned Mr Pierre Trudeau, the Prime Minister, that his constitutional plans could lead to the destruction of the federal system in Canada.

"No proposal in my time here has alarmed me more than the proposal before us now," Mr Clark told the House as debate began on a controversial Government resolution to bring home from Westminster Canada's Constitution under the BNA Act.

He called Mr Trudeau the "last of the great Canadian colonialists" because he had mapped plans for "sneaking off to London" for constitutional amendments.

"He is relying on the British

Congressman in Moscow to improve relations

From Our Own Correspondent
Moscow, Oct 7

Welcoming him to talks at the White House today, President Carter said he hoped to see the consummation of his Administration's efforts to bring independence to Namibia in the "early" future.

President Shagari said the United States and Nigeria must "dedicate our best efforts towards the achievement of similar solutions" for that in Zimbabwe in Namibia.

The two leaders were also expected to discuss the war between Iraq and Iran and trade and technology. Nigeria now provides the United States with much of its imported oil.

Russia reassures US on intentions in Gulf

From David Cross
Washington, Oct 7

President Carter has exchanged letters with Mr Leonid Brezhnev, the Soviet leader, about the continuing conflict between Iraq and Iran. He believes that Moscow does not want war to "break out in a general way" throughout the Gulf area.

Disclosing this in a television interview on the campaign trail in Milwaukee, Wisconsin yesterday, the President said: "I am not the American security," he said, "nor is he the Soviet." He added: "If the Soviet Union should be tempted to move into Iran or to move into the Persian Gulf itself, or the access to it, we would be directly affected."

This would be "direct threat" to our security, but the security of other Western nations will depend on oil supplies from that region for economic well-being," Mr Carter added.

The President said that he and his Administration had "means of communicating back and forth on a fairly regular basis" with the Soviet leadership, in addition to messages between the two leaders, Mr Edmund Muskie, the Secretary of State, had had several hours

of talks with his Soviet counterpart, Mr Andrei Gromyko, at the United Nations in New York, he added. On that occasion Mr Gromyko had delivered another "personal letter" from President Brezhnev.

In the interview, President Carter also denied recent newspaper reports that Mr Muskie had "not served in his Administration" because he was "too much of a hawk" to stay in the State Department.

In another development, the American magazine "Aviation Week" said today that Iranian aircraft losses in the war have been approximately twice as high as those of Iraq.

Citing Pentagon and congressional analysts here, the magazine said that Iran was known to have lost at least 50 aircraft and perhaps as many as 100. The bulk of these were F-4 and F-5 fighter-bombers. By contrast, Iraq had lost between 30 and 50 aircraft, with the losses spread among MiG-21 and MiG-23 fighters and Tupolev Tu-22 bombers.

The Foreign Office said that

Special Ir envoy fails to deliver war report

By David Spanier
Diplomatic Correspondent

In what the Foreign Office termed "an unfortunate" yesterday, the envoy who came to it especially to give a new Iranian view of the war with Iraq left without on his message.

The reason given by the Foreign Office was that the minister was available, Mr Mehdi Navab, the Charge d'Affaires in Britain, had "official" such as Sir Graham, the British Ambassador to Tehran, now back in London.

The Foreign Office said

that Mr Mehdi was able to stay in order to see him off. It was said that he might deliver a message on his return from York.

Some analysts said the situation was predicted by

Yehuda Dror, an academic, who said that the unpopularity of the conflict in the Third World, which radical governments equipped with modern hardware would threaten national stability by engaging all-out wars.

There was a tendency to believe that Israel's 1973 war with Egypt and Syria was the model for future wars in the Third World, said Mr George Kemp, a specialist on Middle East military matters at the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, Tufts University.

Israel and the Arab forces, it was predicted, would quickly be overwhelmed by Iraqi forces. The Iraqis have made gains on the ground but the Iranian Air Force has performed far beyond expectations with advanced aircraft and munitions supplied earlier by the United States.

Officials say a more unexpected and ominous development has been the willingness of both Iran and Iraq to intensify the fighting, particularly oil and nuclear power facilities. Noting the importance of oil to the economies of both countries, White House national security officials described the attacks as completely irrational.

Several State Department aides agreed with this view and added that the United States and the Soviet Union had contributed to the problem by armoring Iraq and Iran heavily in the mid-1970s, when Washington had close links with Tehran and Moscow enjoyed influence in Baghdad, which helped now enjoy.

Or special operations, it is believed, spread to the Middle East and, in particular, to the Basra and other areas.

American officials said fighting could lead to the possibility of uncontrolled warfare in the Third World.

The conflict could lead Washington and Moscow, in greater restraint, to seek conventional arms problems, nuclear weapons officials said, might also receive serious attention.

Mr Kemp said that the loss of losses, new industrial centers or pipelines or ports by the present war, and even by the present war, had been overtaken by the most radical element in future conflicts.

New York Times' News Service

What Jordan hopes for in supporting Iraq

From Kevin Miskiw
Beirut, Oct 7

King Hussein's outright support for Iraq in its war with Israel has raised many questions in the Arab world.

In his speech to the nation yesterday, 24 hours after an unannounced visit to Iraq, the King said Iraq constituted a strategic depth for Jordan.

Jordanian officials who are about to commence the battle of the Karak river said: "All along, we have been supporting Iraq in its struggle against Israel, through the provision of military equipment and supplies."

King Hussein apparently wanted to receive Iraq's support in the event of further trouble with Israel, though this may seem a remote possibility at this stage.

Iran's victory in the war with Iraq will be the beginning of victory in Palestine," he declared.

Jordan and Iraq have been moving closer together in the past two years, while trade, transport and other cooperation agreements are being signed.

About 200,000 in Iraq budget aid and project financing has been provided to Amman this year. Jordan is also benefiting from the US \$100 million loan package arranged by the US State Department.

Jordan is involved in an oil pipeline project in the Gulf, which is being funded by Saudi Arabia and Mr. Yasir Arafat, leader of the PLO.

Muzorewa demover moving men to S Afric

From Our Correspondent
Soweto, Oct 7

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THE TIMES WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 8 1980

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The engine in question has quite a pedigree.

In the CSL coupe it helped BMW win the European Touring Car Championship four years in a row.

It was a performance, however, only really appreciated by racing drivers like Niki Lauda, Jacky Ickx and Hans Stuck, who discovered how with this engine they could beat even 5 and 7 litre rivals.

Then, for the M1 racing car, the engine was developed still further. So, ultimately, it could produce 800 bhp from its six cylinders.

It first raced last year in the Pro-Car Championships. But, again, this was a

pleasure restricted to racing drivers like Clay Regazzoni, Nelson Piquet, Jacques Laffite and Alan Jones.

It seemed, however, that it was selfish to restrict such an engine just to the race track.

So a 140 mph road version of the engine was developed for the 635 CSi coupe.

And its high speed performance is now accompanied by a remarkable low speed docility. If asked to, the vehicle will trundle along without protest at 1500 rpm in any gear, and then pull away cleanly and strongly as soon as you open the throttle. But its racing origins clearly show

when the car then is flicked, flat-out in second or third, through S-bends so close and difficult that they demand the very best of car and driver.

The 6 Series Check Control System ensures that the car is able to give exactly that just press the test button before you drive off and seven key functions of the car are electronically checked.

As for the driver, this BMW's biomechanical design makes the most of his skills.

The driving position, for example, can be optimised by adjusting the seat for height, tilt, reach and rake.

And the controls and instruments are carefully sited to minimise the time gap

between reaction and action.

All in all, rather than being a coupé version of a saloon car, the 635 is very much a car bred directly out of BMW's race track experience. (Witness the fact that a 635 has already won the first rounds of the 1980 European Touring Car Championship at Monza and Vellelunga.)

Alas, it's an experience no more than 595 people in Britain will be able to enjoy in 1980.

Our apologies: but we can't make our 635 CSi any faster.



THE ULTIMATE DRIVING MACHINE



SPORT

Tennis

present ITF embrace reality and accept Davis Cup sponsorship

By Rex Bellamy

Tennis Correspondent

The Davis Cup competition, the International team championship of tennis, seems set to be sponsored for the first time by the Nippon Electric Company, telecommunications specialists based in Japan, have agreed to back the event for three years. The 1981 competition will carry a total of £420,000 in prize money, more than \$1m. The champion nation will win £83,500 and none of the 52 competing countries will emerge with less than £416.

Nippon Electric announced in March that they would sponsor the corresponding women's event, the Federation Cup, for a similar three-year period. Both marketing campaigns are linked with both the official world team championships, yesterday's announcement also means that 1981 will be fully revolutionary for the Davis Cup. The new format has already been approved; with 16 leading nations competing for the trophy (and, after yesterday's announcement, a combined amount of £550,000) the members may in future be limited to four zones with the promoters to the championship in 16 of 1982.

The International Tennis Federation, who have overall responsibility for these team events, are to be consulted on the deal. If some large-scale agreement with the realities of the "open" there are conflicting forces within the ITF and their joint policies tend to be conservative. But the ITF's decision to expand its team events with new money and streamlined formats — the Federation Cup competition (sponsored 1976) and the Nations Cup event run under the aegis of the Association of Tennis Professionals — has led to a break-off ITF committee, as Philippe Chery, president, has

Macken has to live in shadow of youth

By Pamela Macgregor-Morris

Ten years ago, Graham Fletcher took the Horse of the Year Show by storm at the age of 19, winning a number of big prizes which culminated in the award of the Cribbin Trophy. Now youth is once again in the ascendant at Wetherby, on Monday night, the British Championship was dominated by Nick Skelton and John Whitaker, and yesterday Michael Whitaker beat no less than Eddie Macken, Sir Peter Edmund's Darkie Way, Gowan Bound, by one-tenth of a second in the Philips Industries Stakes.

Some memorable three-day Spillers Dressage with jumping championship in the last 15 years from Sheila Willcox's Burghley winner, Far Side Square, and yesterday's Charles Hougham's

Marketing campaign to Princess Anne with the Queen's Goodwill; Captain Mark Phillips' Persée, Honey and Rachel with the Grand National.

Though Judy Bradwell and Castellane were foiled in their defence of the title by the last-minute entry of John Fowler's Royal Slave, failed to repeat his victory of five years earlier, Pansy Mansfield was a former winner in 1971 on Ripalang in her Silverlight. Now she recorded her second victory on Sam Barr's Welton Louis, a son of the former eventing stallion, Welton Gamble, and whose sons second in the

Prize class.

Nick Skelton, who was virtually unbeatable from early June until mid-July on the Everest Double Glazing horses, won the Budlins victory on Sam Barr's Welton Louis, a son of the former eventing stallion, Welton Gamble, and whose sons second in the

Prize class.

John Whitaker, his partner in the British team that won the silver medal in the alternative Olympics in Rotterdam in August, was the clear winner of the trials and rusty Ryan's Son, Desiré Broome was third with a refusal on Queenway Philic.

The ingenious concentration of forces in the centre of the arena was a prevalent penalty zone that the eventual winners followed by a turn of 270 degrees and an alternative time-saving route to a narrow upright of poles and a deadly parallel which took a deal of punishment leading on to a related crossed poles. It should have been a simple German test, with their basic dressage training, but in fact it failed all but Whitaker and Ryan's Son, the first to go, who were clean in 31.3sec, and the winners whose time was 30.3sec.

At the old guard-Browns with Sportsman, Paul Schockemöhl with El Paso, Malcolm Pyrah with Angleterre and Charles Fox had to give it best. Harvey Smith beat the time on Saxy Mangon, while his friend, the German star, had a puncture and the upright thwarted his strategy putting him back to fourth place in the fastest time.

Ann Moore, who won the women's European championship in Vienna in 1971, an individual silver medal in the 1972 Olympics, on Psalm is said to be contemplating a return to the show-ring. She will be riding for the Yorkshire owner Trevor Banks, owner of Blundells and founder of the Yorkshire Stakes.

PHILIPS INDUSTRIES STAKES: 1. S. Mansfield, "Diana Way".

2. C. Hougham, "Darkie Way".

3. J. Whitaker, "Gowan Bound".

4. N. Skelton, "Pansy Mansfield".

5. J. Fowler, "Royal Slave".

6. D. Broome, "Desiré".

7. R. Smith, "Saxy Mangon".

8. J. Whitaker, "Ryan's Son".

9. M. Pyrah, "Angleterre".

10. C. Fox, "Charles Fox".

11. P. Schockemöhl, "El Paso".

12. H. Smith, "Blundells".

13. M. Pyrah, "Malcolm Pyrah".

14. C. Hougham, "Sportsman".

15. N. Skelton, "Pansy Mansfield".

16. J. Fowler, "Royal Slave".

17. D. Broome, "Desiré".

18. R. Smith, "Saxy Mangon".

19. J. Whitaker, "Gowan Bound".

20. C. Fox, "Charles Fox".

21. P. Schockemöhl, "El Paso".

22. H. Smith, "Blundells".

23. M. Pyrah, "Malcolm Pyrah".

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Richard Owen charts the possible effects of the policies of the superpowers over the war in The Gulf and the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan

The changing face of the Middle East

The coup in Turkey, the war in The Gulf and the invasion of Afghanistan are not isolated and unrelated events, but part of a still "evolving pattern which could lead to discernible shifts in the balance of power in the Middle East. That, at any rate, is the view of some of those who closely monitor and observe the strategic and political alignments of the area.

Coups, wars and invasions are not exactly new to the Middle East. These particular events, moreover, have their own causes and consequences. Nonetheless they have between them set up trends and cross-currents which will alter the face of the Middle East, although the final shape is far from clear.

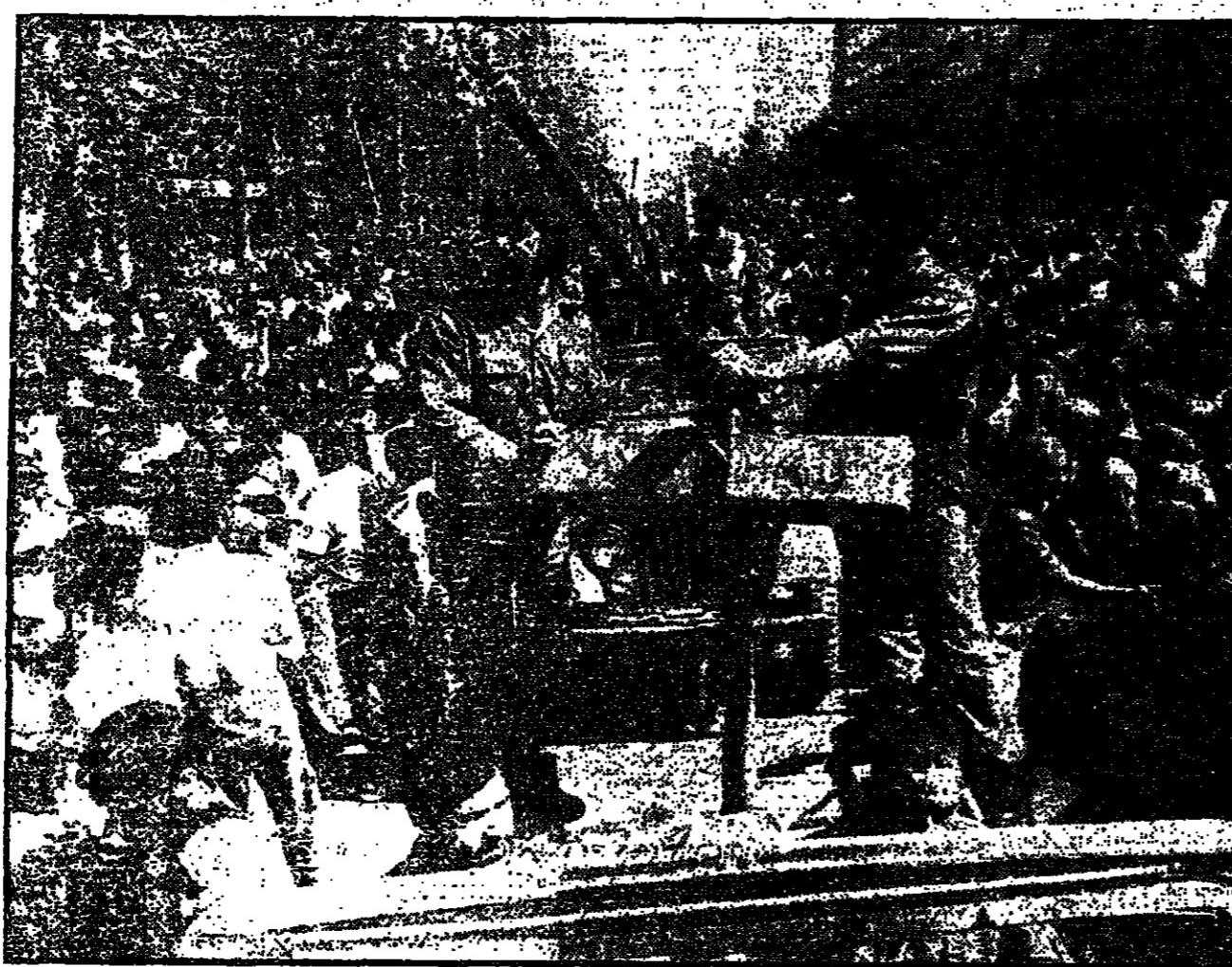
Most vitally affected are the Americans, who have long been worried by the implications of the hard and inscrutable fact that the United States is about 7,000 miles away from the heart of the region. The Gulf. The Nixon doctrine, as evolved

by President Nixon and his Secretary of State, Dr Henry Kissinger, was based on the realization that America was no longer able itself to police those parts of the world where it had what it considered to be vital defence and economic interests. The essence of the Nixon doctrine was that responsibility for local security should be handed over to local powers friendly to, and supplied by, the United States.

In the Middle East, where Britain's withdrawal from The Gulf had left a vacuum, the fulcrum of this policy was Iran. Under the Shah, Iran in effect acted as policeman of The Gulf in American interests. The fall of the Shah in February 1979 and his replacement by a fervently Islamic regime was the first of a series of major events which pulled the ground from under the feet of American policy makers and placed in question all previously held assumptions about the behaviour of local powers in the region.

The second event was the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan 10 months later. The Russians, perhaps sensing that the ripples of the Islamic resurgence could easily swamp Afghanistan, moved to secure, by military means, an area which they had always regarded as being within their legitimate sphere of influence. The move brought them to within 300 miles of The Gulf, and raised fears that Moscow was about to take advantage of the new regional instability, and America's lack of reach, to extend its own tutelage. Iran was assumed to be a prime Soviet target, and long-forgotten Tsarist ambitions to secure access to the warm water ports of The Gulf were

Iranian troops with anti-aircraft guns push through a crowded street in Tehran during an Iraqi bombing raid. Whoever wins the war, the Middle East will never be the same.



This year's bumper crop has confounded certain traditional wisdoms about the effects of the weather on agricultural yields and the gloomy predictions made earlier in the year. The exceptionally dry spell during April and May and then the cold wet period during June and July caused worried farmers to voice fears of lasting damage.

The warmer weather since August brought crops on space and the occasional bouts of heavy rain have not seriously delayed the harvest. All this goes to show that despite significant prolonged fluctuations in the weather, British agriculture is robust and capable of shaking off all but the worst extremes of the weather.

Clearly the crop yield must be a consequence of the weather during the growing season. But the way in which the combination of variations in temperature, rainfall, humidity and sunshine affect both plant growth and disease

is complex. So, within wide margins, the net effect of these variations appear largely to cancel one another.

Examination of the national statistics for the yields for seeds and root crops going back to 1884 shows that the year-to-year variations cannot be related closely to parallel changes in the weather. But this is not always easy to see, especially in the last 35 years, as yields have risen sharply.

This may not agree with local experience as country-wide figures disguise variations from one part of the country to another. This is important as it is not uncommon for a bad summer in, say, the southeast to be matched by better than average conditions in the north and west.

Despite the limitations in using national figures the mess-

age is clear. The only years which do stand out unequivocally from the normal fluctuations for the principal crops are the hot dry years 1947, 1975 and 1976. This year, which started the cold wet seasons are lost in the natural variability of agricultural output in more normal years. While certain years have had notably low figures for individual crops (eg wheat in 1963), across the board, even the worst years like 1954, 1922 and 1903 do not stick out. Nor did the earlier hot dry years of 1921 and 1911 show up clearly.

After a savage winter the entire growing season of 1879 was an unbroken succession of

cold, sunless drenched weeks. There was no relief to allow crops to recuperate. In Ireland, where annual statistics go back to the 1840s, general agricultural productivity was at a third below normal and in England the wheat harvest barely exceeded half the normal value. This damage, coming as it did at a time of rising imports and declining prices, was a principal cause for the setting up of the Royal Commission on Agricultural Depression.

What this exceptional year and the subsequent statistics confirm is that cold wet weather, if not sustained through

Bernard Levin

It seems from official state documents made in Peking that the "Gang of Four", led by Madame Mao and her fellow-members of the "Gang of Four", together with a number of other, mainly illiterate, figures, is to make place. By now therefore, the full extent will have been settled and the participants is thoroughly rehearsed. The judges will have been told what sentences are to be imposed and what terms of probation are to be used in relation to their defence counsel will be practising the catalogue of abuse they are to hurl at their clients, and the defendants themselves are no doubt being heard, at least daily, and possibly offered, the remission of their confinement. Completely unperturbed in this atmosphere of death, Chinese authorities are taking no risks of a pitch in opened night, no foreign journalists are to be allowed to attend, and the court will be filled with representatives of the masses. The guilt of the accused has, of course, been announced in advance, which is only logical, I suppose, even though it seems the last thing to do in such a trial.

And now it begins. To drop this tone of bourgeois banter and ask plainly: has the world really got to go through this filth? nonsense again? Was not the appetite for judicial proceedings made of torture, lies and gullibility fully satisfied before the war in Moscow and after it in Prague? Some day, when the dust settles, the defendants are being tried under

do I know who the Chinese rulers bothered to send Mr Zeng to explain that the "gang" had made a "request" for a special court, and that the request had been "granted". But that, though an apparently insoluble puzzle, is not really important; what is important is the fact that the Chinese rulers are about as vicious as they can be.

So, it is to be darkness at noon for China, and not even Britain would dare to say that the Chinese capital, last week, "some confusion" as to what have exactly

been recognised.

The decrepit and backward

Soviet economy, with all

its dependence on the survival of a healthy western economy of which it can feed. Equally, the strategic map seen from Moscow

now looks very different than

it did five weeks ago.

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So, it is to be darkness at noon for China, and not even Britain would dare to say that the Chinese capital, last week, "some confusion" as to what have exactly

been recognised.

Within these questions there

is another, which I have asked

repeatedly, without getting anything like a satisfactory answer: even Vladimir Brezhnev could not really expect to

Mr Zeng Tao, spokesman for

the Chinese leaders, giving out

the news of the forthcoming trial.

Mr Zeng said the Congress

standing committee had granted

the request of the chief

prosecutor for the setting up

of a special procurator

office and special court.

The request was granted

in view of the "extraordinary

and grave nature" of the

charges.

The question is: why do the

authorities in totalitarian states

say things which are not only untrue, but which every hearer or reader of them, including their most loyal and uncritical supporters, knows to be untrue?

We have just had a per-

fect example of this

phenomenon over the Polish

strike, orchestrated by the

Polish leaders from beginning

to end and consisted of less

than 100,000 strikers, who

had been brought to break them

at gunpoint, and - har! - to

Mr Zeng Tao, spokesman for

the Chinese leaders, giving out

the news of the forthcoming

trial.

I suppose I have myself

answered the question I asked:

yes, the world must indeed go

through this filthy nonsense

again. Because China's present

rulers are not willing to de-

adenue Mao for his crimes (if

only because most of them par-

ticipated in the crimes: at one

period or another), they intend

to go through the ritual pro-

secution of those who at the end

of the day are condemned

nevertheless, and suffer accord-

ingly, but at least they are

not robots, even if all the oth-

ers involved in the proceed-

ings are.

In China, however, it is clear

that the Orwellian isolation

against the weight of which all

strange is virtually impossible,

still exists. And how many dis-

sidents, how many Christian hu-

lievers, how many citizens who

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probation are to be used in

relation to their defence coun-

sel.

The Americans

would depend on how

Kremlin perceives the

threat to its own interests in

the area. It is entirely possible

that the Russians, whatever

their public posture of cour-

tesy, in private are

as uncompromising as ever

they were.

The Americans

have not for-

gotten the War to Ankara of

General Gazi of Turkey

and the

war

which together with Soviet loan offers, gave rise to talk of a Turko-Russian connection.

The military coup in Turkey offers some comfort to the West, inasmuch as the generals now in power in Ankara are both democratically minded and sympathetic to Nato, and may even patch up Turkey's quarrel with Greece which could well be its most serious problem again. But the social tensions which have torn Turkey apart within the past decade to extend Soviet influence and set up a ring of client states have mostly ended in abject failure. The traditional Russian aim remains to hold on to Russian footholds in the Middle East while taking advantage of instability wherever possible. But it is becoming increasingly difficult for either Moscow or Washington to shore up their spheres of influence in the Middle East. On the other hand, the danger now is that the two great powers, faced with increasingly fractious local states, may be more rather than less tempted to intervene militarily to shore up their interests. This is what happened in Afghanistan. It could happen in the Gulf war if the war between Iran and Iraq were to spread and threaten the oil supplies on which the western economies depend. Given that the local Gulf states are not yet in a position to provide adequate protection, the question is whether the Soviet Union would react to any United States-Turkish move, and so on in what way.

The decrepit and backward

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its dependence on the survival of a healthy western economy of which it can feed. Equally, the strategic map seen from Moscow now looks very different than in

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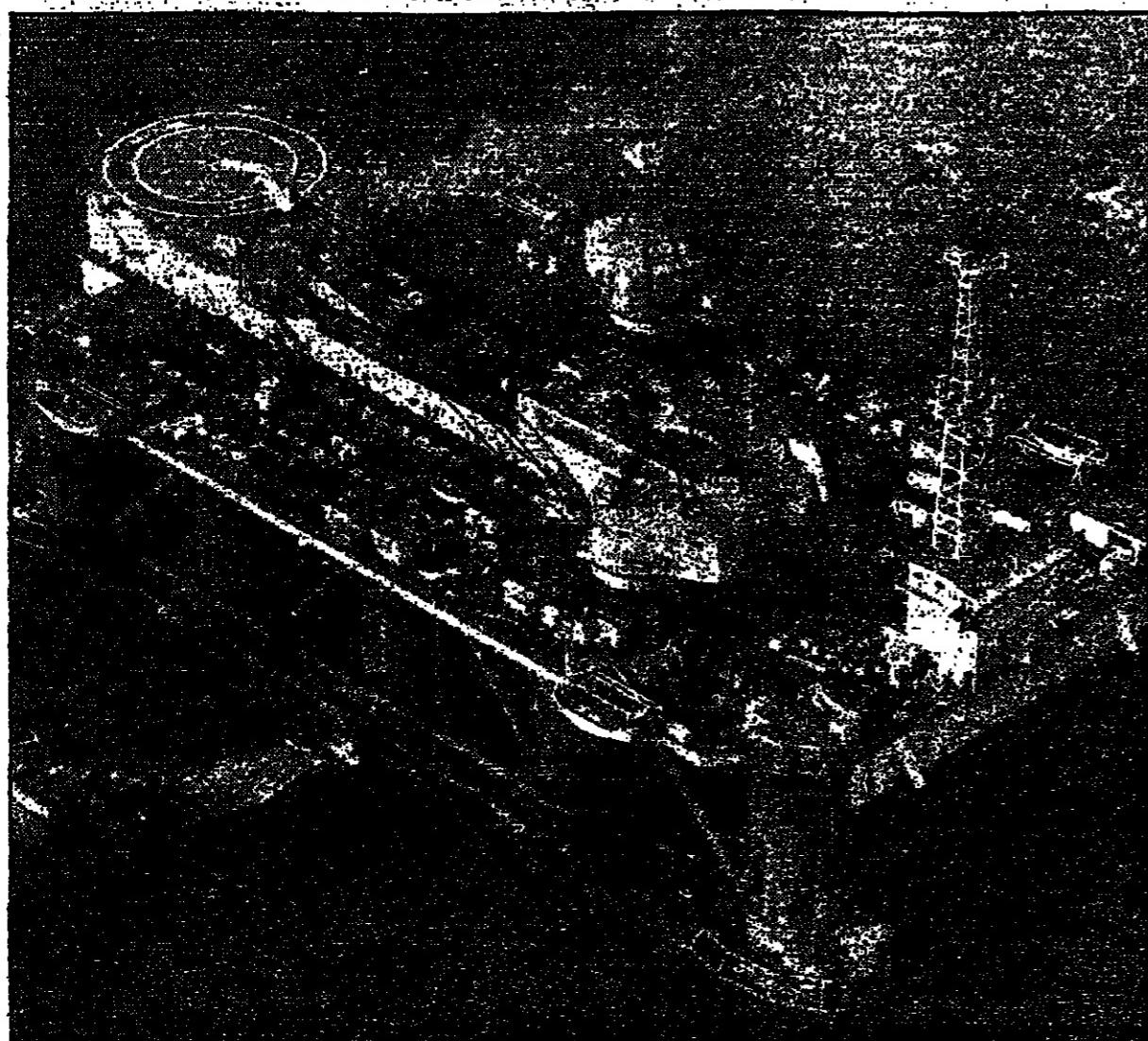
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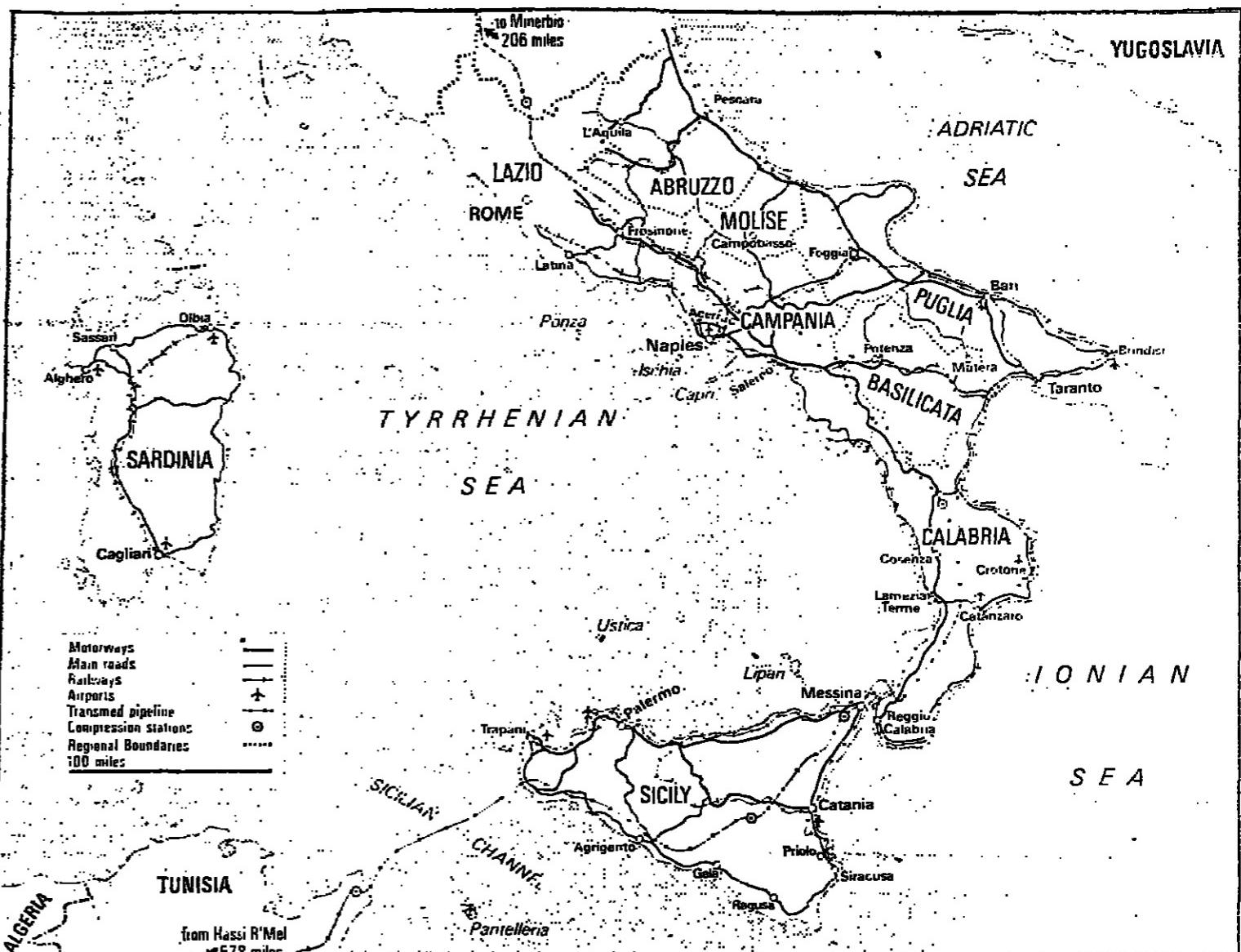
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THE MEZZOGIORNO



Saipem's Castoro Sei laying a section of the Transmed pipeline off the coast of Sicily. Scheduled for completion by the end of 1981, the 1,552-mile-pipeline will eventually connect the gas fields of Algeria with the North Sea and the Soviet Union. John Earle discusses its controversial significance for southern Italy on page III.



Debate rages after failure to reach goals

A chapter is about to close. The tasks it is widely agreed require time to implement. The 30-year history of recognized efforts to banish poverty for achieving its goals, even if the incentives, with cash to the 20 million inhabitants of record is not as negative as grants, soft loans, tax holidays largest underdeveloped sometimes made out. A days and social security payments region in the European great debate is under way meant reductions, mainly Community. The law regulates what direction policy for tained unchanged? Should the Cassa per il Mezzogiorno should now there be less discretion in the government take, though it would be the hands of bureaucrats development agency for the idle to expect clear-cut decisions and politicians, and more south, expires on December 31 by January... Any certainty about what will be change in direction will available, so that the poten-

tial investor will know plex well able to compete where he stands? Does this in international markets mean less emphasis on pockets of extreme poverty grants and more on tax still remain in some areas, alleviations? Can procedures, but in others a network of bodies dealing with be speeded? Can the job small business and be rationalized?

Broadly speaking, the Naples and in Puglia.

Christian Democrats, especially those from the south, the south is well above the national average and likely

the flow of funds during to worsen as dismised economic three decades. In the north, grants return to the standard of living has improved notably in the past 30 years. In the words of Signor Giorgio Ruffolo, former head of government abolition of the cassa, and even of the separate Ministry for the Mezzogiorno.

Signor Nicola Capria, Minister for the Mezzogiorno, who is a Socialist, described the cassa as a "bureaucratic and clientelistic group", which in practice was outside the control of the central and regional governments. There

was confusion about the functions of the cassa and its associate bodies. He would like to dismantle the cassa as it is now, and to rationalize it into an industrial promotion agency for the south, while transferring its other functions to the regional governments.

Certainly, a glance at some areas where big industrial projects have been concentrated often dismals picture. Sardinia's economy is again beneath the weight of a nearly bankrupt petrochemical industry set up with public incentives by Signor Nino Rovelli when he headed Società Italiana Resine. One of the few redeeming features of the island's "plight" is the recently opened one in London, spurred by the Aga Khan's Costa Smeralda development.

What are the prospects for foreign firms? In April, 1979, the Institute for Assistance in the Development of the South listed 196 wholly or partly-owned foreign companies with plant in the Mezzogiorno which employ nearly 80,000. Over the years a fair number of foreigners have pulled out, though at the institute it is maintained that this was usually owing to extraneous factors such as difficulties of the market or of the company itself, or to its presence in the Mezzogiorno. Through incentives by the government, the institute's first door on

Signor Nino Rovelli when he headed Società Italiana Resine. One of the few should knock is expanding its offices abroad, and recently opened one in London, spurred by the Aga Khan's Costa Smeralda development.

Among deterrents to expansion into the area, businessmen complain of a pernicious bureaucracy which delays decisions beyond reasonable expectation, as well as of imperfect services (bank loans may cost two or three points more than in the north), and of labour costs that are no longer competitive. An employer of Italians fresh from an agricultural background may find they adapt with difficulty to the fixed-time schedules and lack of fresh air of factory life. Easy labour relations should not be taken for granted.

The prospects naturally vary according to sectors of activity and geographical location. A recent research conducted with the object of encouraging West German private investment indicated good opportunities in agriculture sectors such as animal feed, small-scale machinery, equipment for stock raising, liquid fertilizers, canning, equipment.

In Calabria the Government's development policy has been associated with the Gioia Tauro project, conceived as a large seaport, but since scaled down and adapted to other industrial activities, whose success is still uncertain. In the Naples conurbation, whose four million inhabitants make it the most densely populated area of the Mezzogiorno, Alfa Romeo's Alfa-Sud plant has never achieved production targets.

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- towards the training and updating of businessmen, directors and middle management in the different economic sectors;
- for the development of cooperation by granting subsidies in favour of cooperatives and associations active in commerce, artisan crafts, industry and fishing, in order to encourage programmes of activities aiming at the acquisition of new experiences and data which are useful in renewing management policies of associative companies;
- towards an increase of research and experimentation to practical ends, in collaboration with university institutes and other organisations;
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The Institute is equipped with a vast library offering economic publications and specialised magazines both Italian and foreign, as well as a modern and very spacious conference room, with simultaneous translation facilities (4 languages) and closed circuit television. The creation of a Commercial Exchange and of a Goods Laboratory is being studied.

There is something of an optical illusion about the democracy of the West. From the north, the gap between the two parts of Italy is sharply defined - clear, and undoubtedly the principal element in the national scene.

Southerners are seen to be inferior. The south is a weight around the country's neck, a centre of absurd

passions with an atmosphere ill conductive to work, yet a ready absorber of state funds aimed at developing the prospects of labour.

The cities are chaotic and dirty. The police are found and the shores are lapped by a Mediterranean

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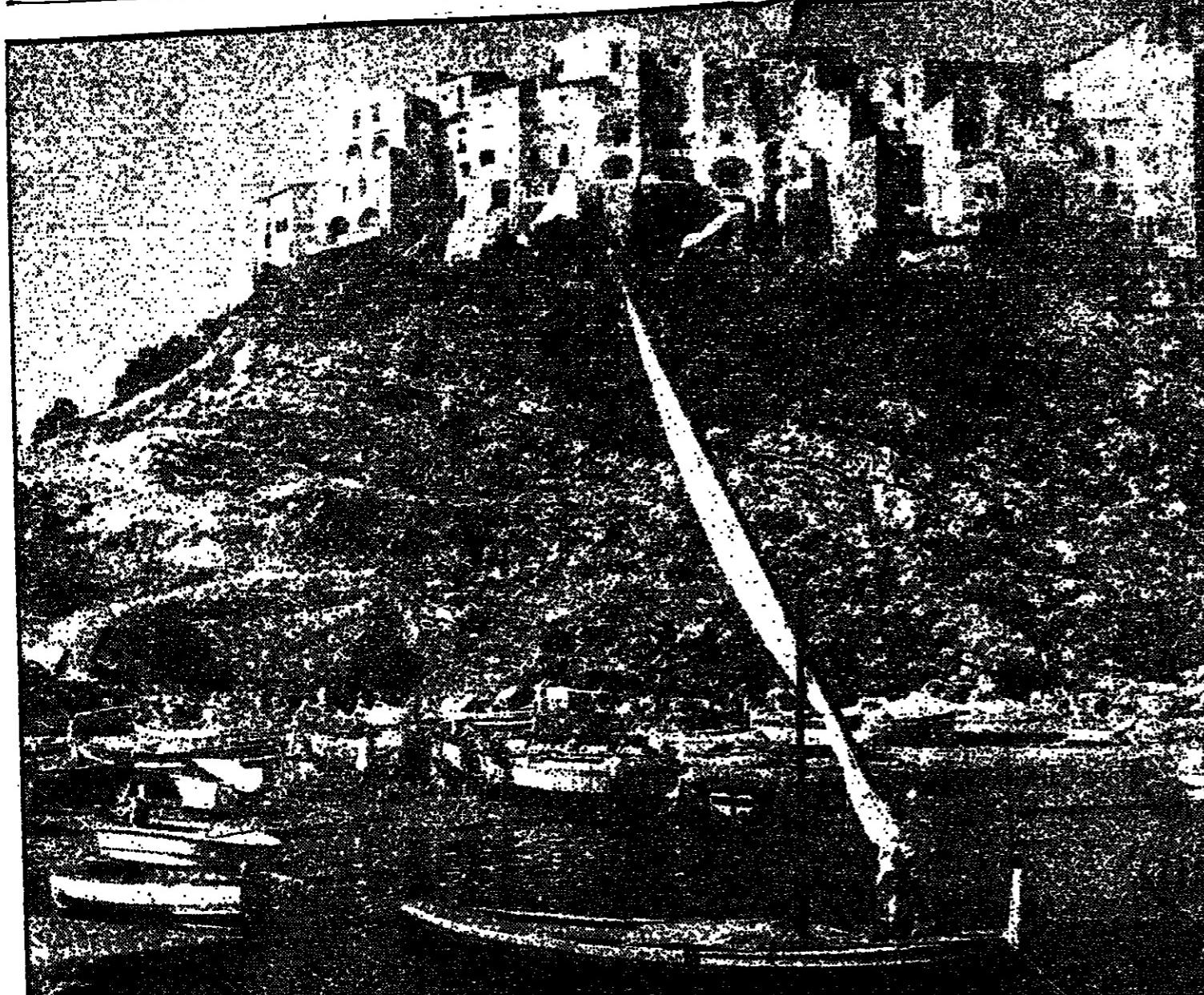
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Harbour at Sperlonga. The tall, thin houses were built to resist the Saracen invaders.

Lazio: romance in the air

The countryside around St. Benedict's resort to its former splendour will be an Formia close to the Campanian border. This is a mandatory. We were shown round by Don Agostino, sprightly old monk who has lived in the monastery since the age of 12 and remembers the days of the Second World War. Also in Anzio, which has a long beach with several Roman ruins, is the villa Azio, a painful reminder of the Second World War. Also in Anzio, which

This is the region where the Pope has his residence; Castelgandolfo, where Italian noblemen have always enjoyed their leisure and pleasure; and where now rich Roman businessmen have their second, or country, homes. It is an area of assiduous tourism. This is the atmosphere which comes over quite strongly to those who like to be cosseted in some good hotels and taken on a ceaseless round of banquets - 16 of these in eight days.

The medieval hill town of Sermoneta, northeast of Latina, is beautifully preserved and has a castle where Lucrezia Borgia once stayed. The place was alive with a BBC film crew when we were there - about 500 people in all, including about 300 extras; cameramen and wardrobe mistresses, not to mention a large contingent of horses and donkeys. The cameramen downed large glasses of red wine and marvelled at the price, which was less than £15p.

Try to eat at Charlie Brown's Restaurant, which serves wild game and other delicacies in a medieval building, which used to be an oil press. It is an experience not to be missed.

For many a visit to Monte Cassino and the Abbey of

In modern times many go to Puglia with nearly four million inhabitants, has gone to San Giovanni facilities, and an important thing for everyone. Once Romano, 16 miles away, existing ones. But the stone and mud, the Capuchin Padre, been a disappointing

Pio, famed for having the the number of Italian

altitudes of the order of 3,000-4,000ft, reached in a corner of the Appennines, a large modern hospital complex, built with 2,237 beds, in Gargano, the beautiful spot funds gathered in his name were 7.5 and 0.3 per cent. Pilgrimages of another respectively less than sort are undertaken to Cassino before the Adriatic.

There are beaches and coves which are still unspoilt compared to the famous sun and one of Holland's early stars, up to 10.27 per cent

Gargano, out of a Rudolfo (Rudolph) Valen, in other tourist, fact

(up by no less than

Trulli landscape south of Bari, as tidy as Tuscany, or southern England.

The Trulli's whitewashed dwellings are unique and ennobled by agricultural prosperity and taking fish place, Italy and unfortunately at risk of being commercialized as a tourist attraction, brought an explosion of luxury in the main towns of Alberobello.

For lovers of blood-sports, the shooting season is in full swing in the Gargano, arrangements can be made at a local holiday centre, with a scale of prices for wild boar, deer, hare, pheasant and partridge.

For those who like castles and castles in a region steeped in history. Only in the old part of Bari one is never far away. The women sweeping the classical towns like Monopoli and Otranto homes will tell you to be recall the Magna Graecia of the past, the little antiquity, and in villages be rats, as the bag-snatchers between Bari and Otranto are called.

The Salento district of the heel of Italy, the Salento, is indeed a Greek district with a Greek dialect still spoken.

A long tradition of pilgrimage dates from the time of the Crusades, embarking for the Holy Land. They would average 15 per cent a year motorists from West

Saint Michael on the 38,311 at the beginning of the year, while a further 15 per cent of tourists from the British but also for stays of three to five days.

The region has also increased at an annual rate of 10 per cent, from 19,000 or so in 1971 to 20,000 or so in 1972, to 22,000 in 1973, and 24,000 in 1974.

The region's authorities are likely to extend these services to other countries, including Britain, France and Germany, and the number of hotel beds in the smaller towns, to 100,000 by 1980.

Medea says that buses

spend six hours, or in

Puglia, the low

and 200,000 live in the

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THE TIMES

New Printing House Square, London, WC1X 8EZ Telephone: 01-837 1234

A VALID HOUSE OF LORDS

Among the few questions on which there was a widespread measure of agreement at Blackpool last week was that the House of Lords should be abolished. Whatever wins the internal battle within the party, there is now a very real danger that the election of a Labour Government would lead to single chamber government in Britain. This would be thoroughly undesirable.

One chamber government is an encouragement to ill-considered government. It provides insufficient opportunity for the revision of legislation before it reaches the statute book, or for the discussion of issues not immediately related to legislation. A second chamber adds a necessary dimension to the processes of government and offers a safeguard for private liberties against precipitate action by whichever party happens to hold office for a while.

But it is no longer realistic to hope to secure the future of the House of Lords simply by advancing the merits of a second chamber. If a future Labour Government is to be dissuaded from the intention to kill the upper House it will have to be confronted by a chamber free of the objections that undermine the position of the Lords at the moment. That was the theme of the debate on the Lords at the Conservative Party conference yesterday. If the House of Lords is to be preserved then it must first be reformed.

There are three principal objections to the House of Lords in its present form. It is totally un-elected. It is, of course, an illusion to suppose that only those who have been elected are capable of doing a good job in legislature. But the essence of parliamentary government is

that it is representative government and a chamber that does not contain a single elected member cannot claim convincingly that it is representing anyone.

A second objection is that the House of Lords does contain an hereditary element. There is no need to sneer at the contribution that the hereditary peerage has made throughout centuries of British history. But as an institution it represents the past. It is no longer, as it once was, a source of power and authority in British society. It does not therefore have any rightful place, solely on its own account, in the British legislature today.

The third objection to the present House of Lords is that there is an unfixed right of nomination to it. This not only opens the way to Mr Benn's thousand new peers. It also means that the government of the day is in a position to tilt the balance of the House's composition to its own satisfaction, even when its purposes are less dramatic than the abolition of the second chamber. Even if this power is not used, the fact that it exists must undermine public confidence in the Lords.

How then can the House be reformed so as to eliminate these weaknesses? In his speech replying to the conference debate yesterday Mr Norman St John-Stevens, the leader of the House of Commons, was careful to avoid any commitment on the part of the Government, but he made it clear that he personally looked with favour on the proposals of the Conservative review committee, chaired by Lord Home, which reported two years ago.

This committee recommended a complicated scheme providing for a House that would be partly elected and partly nominated, with fifty hereditary peers.

THE DEMORALIZATION OF THE POLISH PARTY

It is going to take a long time for the effects of the Polish strikes to work their way through the political system. The process began in August when Mr Gierek, then party secretary, tried to head off trouble byacking a number of senior men, including Mr Babiuch, who had been Prime Minister for only a few months. At the same time he promoted two men whose advice he had earlier spurned, Mr Stefan Olszowski and Mr Józef Grabski, with an apologetic reference to "those comrades who noticed earlier the accumulation of various irregularities, who tried to counteract him and to whom we did not listen".

This was not enough. Even if he had not been taken ill, he could not have long escaped blame for the failures of his own leadership. His turn came only lightly sooner than expected when he was replaced by Mr Kania, who is now continuing the urge by removing many of Mr Gierek's men from the Central Committee. And this is certainly the end. The party is demoralized and confused at all levels. It must now be a happy hunting ground for those who care to pay off, and ambitions to fulfil. There is no sense at this stage in trying to detect victory for any single faction or doctrine.

In some ways the unmeritocratic development in the emergence of General Mościcki, who led the anti-Semitic purge of 1968 and paved the way for Mr Gierek, only to be allowed aside

once Mr Gierek had consolidated his power. Since then General Mościcki has used his job in the party control commission to gather files on the corruption which gradually spread through the upper ranks of Mr Gierek's team. Posing now as the cleansing conscience of the party, he knows too much about too many people to be ignored.

For the moment, however, Mr Kania seems to be gathering the reigns of power into his hands. At a stormy meeting of the Central Committee over the weekend he delivered one of the frankest and most hard-hitting speeches ever to come from the mouth of a contemporary communist leader. He broadly accepted almost every criticism made by the opposition in recent years of the way the system has been functioning. He said that workers' criticism of the trade unions was justified, that their protest was a mass workers' protest not against socialism but against violations of its principles; not against people's power but against bad methods of government; not against the party but against errors in its policy.

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He lambasted failures in investment management, failures in agricultural policy and failure to ensure accurate reporting of the situation. Often the facts were inverted, locally or within individual branches of industry. The style of government was characterized by arrogance and

COMPLAINTS AGAINST BROADCASTS

now that the Welsh question has been settled, the glare of publicity has passed from the Broadcast Bill, which, after its momentary stay in the Lords, may well be the Welsh language and whether the future of the state television channel are of secondary significance among the contents of the Bill in the eyes of most of the public. What worries people most about broadcasting, as witnessed by the thousands of letters received by the Amman committee in 1977, is the accountability of the broadcasters to their audience.

Many feel and with justice that both the BBC and the IBA are dismissive, even arrogant, about complaints from the public. This is especially so in respect of unfair or inaccurate references to individuals and organizations. Partly because of the nature of the medium, but chiefly because of the attitude of those in control of the programmes, it is far harder to set right broadcasts, misrepresentations than it is to get a correction or a reply printed in any respectable newspaper.

The two broadcasting authorities have each set up a body to

hear such complaints, but these have never carried much conviction because they are subsidiaries of those they sit in judgment on. The Bill would replace them with a single statutory commission, able to require the authorities to publicize its findings as it sees fit. So long as its members are skilled in the assessment of evidence and familiar with the practical problems of broadcasting, this should greatly assist those who have been unfairly treated.

It will be no help to those whose complaints are more general. Lord Nugent of Guildford and Lord Halsbury have moved an amendment to the Bill which would extend the scope of the commission to include indecency, foul language, violence and mockery of religion. The idea of a commission with wider powers may be superficially attractive, but it was firmly rejected by the Amman committee, which recommended the creation of the commission. They felt that there was too great a difference between the quasi-judicial function that they envisaged and the role of adjudicating over what are to some extent matters of taste and certainly of less definable judgment. In addition, it is odious to set a statutory body to oversee two others (the authorities), both already charged with statutory duties of the same kind.

Yet many feel that the authorities do not fulfil their duties, and that no effective way of bringing them to account exists. A commission empowered only to issue belated disapproving comments over the air would not be very effective either. A commission with punitive or executive powers would uncomfortably resemble a new monopoly broadcasting authority on its own account. It is for the authorities to set their own houses in order. The main focus of concern is not so much profanity or indecency, as violence, where the evidence of television's harmful influence on conduct is disturbingly strong. Sometimes the two channels give the impression that they are competing for viewers by bidding up the level of violence, unjustified either as art or as news, and often at times when children may be watching. To justify their independence, the authorities must satisfy the public better that they are responsive to these fears as their statutory responsibility dictates.

Radioactive waste

from Mr R. Calvert
Sir, It is with some concern that I write about the intention of the mineral Environment Research Council model to dispose of nuclear radioactive waste in North America. The areas may have the range of rock formations that might be suitable for waste disposal, but surely is the only factor in

favour of it being considered for such a purpose.

The suggested sites border an area which is widely regarded as England's last great fen, an idyllic place, flat and perhaps the cause of uninteresting ideas, gaining any credibility.

Yours faithfully,
PHILIP CALVERT
3 Ringwood Grove,
Weston-super-Mare,
Avon.

October 3.

I trust the application for permission will be unsuccessful in order to preclude this truly terrifying idea, gaining any credibility.

Yours faithfully,
R.K.FRENCH
Clare Hall,
Cambridge.

October 4.

Why Mr Callaghan should go now

From Mr William Hamilton, MP for Fife Central (Labour)

remaining as an interim measure, Mr St John-Stevens went out of his way yesterday to support the continuation of the hereditary component in the House. This would surely be a mistake. Not only would it make the scheme of reform too complicated to be readily appreciated—and simplicity is an important condition for public confidence in any system of representative government—but it would undermine the legitimacy of the reconstituted House.

The second objection is that the House of Lords does contain an hereditary element. There is no need to sneer at the contribution that the hereditary peerage has made throughout centuries of British history. But as an institution it represents the past. It is no longer, as it once was, a source of power and authority in British society. It does not therefore have any rightful place, solely on its own account, in the British legislature today.

The third objection to the present House of Lords is that there is an unfixed right of nomination to it. This not only opens the way to Mr Benn's thousand new peers. It also means that the government of the day is in a position to tilt the balance of the House's composition to its own satisfaction,

even when its purposes are less dramatic than the abolition of the second chamber. Even if this power is not used, the fact that it exists must undermine public confidence in the Lords.

An upper chamber composed of elected and nominated members could be compared with the old system of local government when there were elected majorities and a minority aldermen, who made a valuable contribution in terms of experience and continuity and who should never have been abolished. Finally, it would be necessary to provide that any further change in the role of either House of Parliament should require the consent of both.

A new constitutional settlement along these lines would carry public confidence and be a guarantee of stability at a time when this may be badly needed.

Yours sincerely,
W.W.HAMILTON
House of Commons.
October 6.

From Professor G.L. Rogers

Sir, Mr Vernon Bartlett (October 4) as usual puts his finger on the central point. The Labour Party's decision to have mandatory reselection of MPs is of the most profound constitutional significance.

The Labour Party no longer believes in representative Parliamentary democracy. It wishes to replace the House of Commons by a legislative conference of delegates pledged in advance to carry out the instructions of the small group which selects them.

This may be the way Left-wing parties work on the Continent, but it is not the way we do things in Britain.

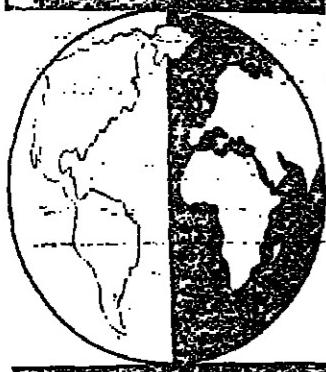
Yours faithfully,
G.L. ROGERS
Department of Physics,
The University of Aston in
Birmingham.
Gosta Green,
Birmingham.

EEC expenditure cuts

From Mr Ben Patterson, MEP for Kent West (Conservative)

A hostile attitude to criticism and a disregard of the concepts and opinions created outside the party control commission to gather files on the corruption which gradually spread through the upper ranks of Mr Gierek's team. Posing now as the cleansing conscience of the party, he knows too much about too many people to be ignored.

These are stirring words, and they will doubtless increase the "heated discussions" which he admits are taking place within the party as well as among the people. But in themselves they offer no guarantee that they will change Polish reality. The system has its own imperatives. The apparatus down to the middle and lower levels does not like being told that it has failed. Nor is it easily persuaded that it must make room for rival bodies or alternative channels of information. It will not be wholly reassured by Mr Kania's argument that the creation of new trade unions means only "an organizational division" of an otherwise united union movement. They will be even more reluctant than Mr Kania must surely be to give these unions the "heated discussions" which he admits are taking place within the party as well as among the people. But in themselves they offer no guarantee that they will change Polish reality. The system has its own imperatives. 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Japanese to launch big research programme

Many leading Japanese companies plan heavy spending on research and development in stages off competition in world markets, according to a survey published in Tokyo.

The Industrial Bank of Japan said in a survey of 1,732 private companies showed that their capital spending in the present financial year would increase by 21.9 per cent to 12,650,000 yen (£24,500m).

About 34 per cent of this was for research and development, compared with only 5.1 per cent in the financial year which ended last March.

The remainder of capital outlays in 1980 will be used on either rationalization or to replace obsolete equipment.

Swiss money supply

The Swiss M1 money supply fell 11.4 per cent in July compared with a year earlier, after an 8.1 per cent decline in June, according to provisional figures published by the national bank.

Japanese trade law

The Japanese Government has decided to enforce the revised foreign exchange and trade control law from December 1. This will remove almost all restrictions on capital trade transactions with other countries.

Italy's salaries up!

The Italian index of salaries rose by an average 21.9 per cent between January and August this year compared with the same eight-month period last year.

Chrysler salaried

Chrysler Corporation plans to set up its first one in New Castle, Indiana, employing a total of 6,000.

Norway unemployed

The number of unemployed in Norway at the end of September was only 20,400 or 12,500 more than in September 1979, and 3,300 fewer than in August.

Informatics prospects

Informatics, the science of automated information systems, will mean the loss of many jobs needing only low qualifications, although it should create jobs in the long term, according to delegates at an Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development conference in Paris.

British Rail cuts collection and delivery service in face of competition

Wrapping up the parcels business

British Rail's planned withdrawal from collection and delivery of parcels could have a beneficial effect on an industry some would say has been crying out for rationalization for years.

Parcels are big business, with a market worth more than £100m a year. The Post Office is market leader with nearly £500m, followed by British Rail with £150m and the National Freight Company, through its National Carriers and Roadline subsidiaries, with around £100m.

But the fastest growth has probably been in private sector companies, whose share has risen to a third of the market worth around £300m a year. Market leaders are United Carriers (around £40m); Wilkeson, a subsidiary of Lex (£240m); Inver County Express, owned by the Thors Nationwide Transport (£200m); United Carriers (subsidiary (£20m)); Express and Seafreight (£15m); and Express.

There are also the big mail stores, companies such as Great Universal and Linwoods; Empire Stores; Gossage; and Fraermans, most of which are prepared to carry other people's parcels by mail, as well as deliver their own. There are 15 or so local transport firms with a make a vehicles each, which together make a loose regional and national network.

The rapid growth of the private sector in a highly competitive and cost-hungry market is the coup de grace to British Rail. It was a strike by its staff at the Post Office, in 1971, which started the market.

Until then we had enjoyed a pretty service from British Rail and the Post Office, one of the big mail order groups said, "but the strike hit us hard, and many of us vowed never to be so dependent on them again."

"We have been developing our own services because it gives us close control over costs and delivery times, but also because it reduces the risk of being caught by industrial action."

The Post Office has made improvements in its own service in the past decade. By installing advanced sorting plants, and with aggressive marketing, it has offered a service which British Rail has found hard to match.

Others—Wilkinson, Carravast, and National Carriers—are following suit with automatic sorting plants, and there is plenty of spare road transport capacity around as a result of the economic hard way.

So while there were the obligatory expressions of sympathy and regret yesterday at British Rail's withdrawal, there was quite a bit of subdued tail-wagging too.

Even National Carriers, which operates British Rail's road business under contract, was not wholly disheartened.

"Naturally we regret the loss of a big contract," Mr Brian Hayward, managing director, said. "But we have the men, the vehicles, and the expertise, and we shall be going out to expand our own business in the field."

British Rail's decision, though tough in the short term, must be right. Of the f150m parcels business, collection and delivery is losing £38m on a turnover of £40m—not the sort of loss British Rail (or anyone else for that matter) would want to stay with for long.

The decision means concentrating effort and investment elsewhere—the Red Star express parcels business between stations, turning over more than £22m a year, and working for the Post Office and others worth nearly £60m. It adds up to sensible rationalization of the parcels industry, albeit the hard way.

Michael Baily

Brazil's steelmakers plan big expansion

From Peter Hill

Midweek 7

Brazilian steelmakers are planning big expansion of their industry in the next five years. By 1985, their steel plants are expected to have a capacity of 20 million tonnes.

Brazil is one of a group of countries in which steel production is likely to grow rapidly, with expansion plans, in sharp contrast to the limping industries of the United States and Europe.

Steel production in Brazil this year is likely to rise to 15.3 million tonnes, and over the first eight months of this year output was nearly 12 per cent higher than in the corresponding period of 1979.

Details of Brazil's plans were outlined here by officials of the Brazilian Iron and Steel Institute (Bisi). Brazil now accounts for about 50 per cent of all Latin American production, and this year its steel industry expects to export nearly 1.7 million tonnes with imports down to 700,000 tonnes, reversing the import-export balance of only a few years ago.

Earlier this week, the Bisi forecast that developing countries were likely to experience a 3.2 per cent increase in steel consumption this year with a further rise of more than 6 per cent next year.

Mexico and Venezuela are also expanding their steel output, funded by revenues from their energy industries.

But, despite the bullish plans for the future, Brazil is beginning to feel the impact of high inflation rates, its international debt burden and balance of payment problems.

Engineering council to seek ways of setting up watchdog body

By Derek Harris

Members of the Council of Engineering Institutions will meet today to consider ways of setting up a new body to oversee the profession. The 16 institutions which are members of the council have been under increasing pressure from the Department of Industry to agree on a structure for the new organization.

The council has suggested that, with certain alterations, it could be turned into a "watchdog" for the engineering profession. The changes would include opening up the membership to include representatives from industry.

However, Sir Keith Joseph, Secretary of State for Industry, has suggested the new body should be a chartered one, instead of the statutory organization suggested by the Farnsion inquiry into engineering.

The four most powerful institutions—the Institution of Civil Engineers, the Institution of Mechanical Engineers, the Institution of Electrical Engineers and the Institution of Chemical Engineers—are expected to support Sir Keith's preference. This would mean professional engineers would be in the majority on any new chartered body.

Sir Keith has been anxious to get an agreement on the structure of a new body before next week's two-day national conference on engineering education and training which will be held on October 15 in Birmingham.

The hearing starts tomorrow and is expected to last about three days. But as President Carter has already announced a final ruling will not be made until after the American election on November 29.

Sir Keith has been anxious to get an agreement on the structure of a new body before next week's two-day national conference on engineering education and training which will be held on October 15 in Birmingham.

The four are also pressing for all the institutions to be brought together in one single, single structure. They say this would give the different sectors a voice on the new body without increasing the board numbers.

There are mixed opinions on the way the new body should be structured. One argument is

Ford chief says import curbs must be imposed

Mr Philip Caldwell, chairman of Ford Motors, said that manufacturers must be relieved from Japanese imports during the industry's critical reconversion programme scheduled to last until the end of 1985.

If the council is to become the watchdog body, it could have a structure like the General Medical Council with a large governing body to allow the fullest representation of outside interests as well as the profession. Such an organization would meet possibly only twice a year and detailed operations would be left to a small executive council.

The chances of today's meeting hammering out a consensus are not great, despite hints from the Department of Industry that unless this is done by October 15, Sir Keith may postpone action indefinitely.

Apart from the dissension within the profession, the demands of the Confederation of British Industry and the Engineering Employers Federation also need to be met. The engineering employers, particularly, want a large representation of industrialists on the new body.

So far no joint meeting between the institutions, the CBI and the engineering employers has been arranged. The TUC is even further away from the commission limits imports from Japan and elsewhere to 2 million a year for several years.

The hearing starts tomorrow and is expected to last about three days. But as President Carter has already announced a final ruling will not be made until after the American election on November 29.

Mr Caldwell said that he cannot see how the commission could fail to find that the American industry has been unreasonably constituted in recent years, in the record underpayment of the record and the 18-year low in domestic production of cars and trucks.

Ford would prefer to see the Japanese imports limited, but, as a last resort, that it has to file a case.

He said the Japanese were ready and willing earlier in the year to take voluntary action but they never got a clear signal from the Carter administration that this action was required. —Washington Star Service.

House price increases are slowing

By Margaret Stone

Evidence of the slowing of house price rises is accumulating. The latest Nationwide Building Society bulletin indicates that prices rose on average by only 4 per cent in the third quarter of 1980—the lowest rate of increase for three years.

Two schemes called the Microelectronics Application Programme (£55m) and the Microelectronics Industrial Support Programme (£70m) were set up by the Department of Industry in 1978. Within a year the Conservative Government reduced the industrial support programme to £55m.

GEC, Plessey and Ferranti are among British companies established in the United Kingdom to assist potential users of new technology to adapt to it.

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But the greatest potential area for growth will be in the manufacture of special microchips. However, designers and the production plant will need to be closer to the market place. This explains the recent

Government facing microchip pressure

By Bill Johnston

The Government is under increasing pressure from Japanese and American companies to form an industrial policy which will succeed in attracting inward investment to microelectronics but protect existing British manufacturers.

The Japanese and the Americans think that the United Kingdom has a high potential for the production of special microchips.

The Government's proposed relaxation of the supply of telecommunications equipment, the growth in visual data and data processing, and the increasing automation in industry provide potential for growth in microchip production.

Chips are available on the world market and are produced by multinational suppliers such as National Semiconductors, Motorola, Texas Instruments, and IITT.

But the greatest potential area for growth will be in the manufacture of special microchips. However, designers and the production plant will need to be closer to the market place. This explains the recent

slowdown in house price rises not been accompanied by an equal slowdown in earnings, so the important ratio between average house prices and earnings has continued to fall from a peak of 3.2 at the end of 1979 to just 3.5 now.

Some estate agents are reporting a softening of house prices at the bottom of the trough and that prices should begin to take off again.

Business appointments

Sir William Barlow joins Metal Industries board

Sir William Barlow has been appointed an additional director of Metal Industries and elected chairman.

Mr R. Jensen has joined the board of Hogg Robinson & Gandy (Marine).

Mr J. D. Johnson has been made chairman of TI International, a new company set up to assist TI companies and divisions in overseas markets and to coordinate overseas operations.

Mr Roger C. Stoye has been appointed executive director of Midland & Northern.

Barclay Lamberts has become an additional director of London Trust Company.

Mr M. J. Blakely is now a director of Marine Navigation Company.

Mr S. M. K. Miles has been made financial director and Mr D. J. Harrold non-executive engineering director of ESP International Foundations.

Mr Robert Vaughan has gone on to the board of Minet Leasing Services.

Mr Ronald J. Harrison has become a non-executive director of St George's Bank (Worcester).

Mr John Lawrence has been made director quality control for the Perkins Engines Group.

Mr C. J. Hall has become financial controller at Metal Pipeline Endurance.

Mr Dennis Andrews has been made director of personnel of Broomhouse Machinery.

Mr G. Smith is now managing director of Capper Neil Plastics.

"The effects of the recession have been apparent in most areas in which we operate.... I am cautious about making predictions for the second half but, with the measures we have already taken, I believe Group profits will not show the same level of decline as in the first half."

"Next year, given lower interest rates and a reasonable level of trade and consumer confidence, we would expect a substantial improvement in earnings. The Directors have maintained the interim dividend."

TOM HEWOOD,

Chairman, Wimlow, Cheshire.

WORLD'S LEADING CAR CARE GROUP

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Controlling Stock Exchange dawn raids

From Mr E. P. Neff
Sir, Mr Hugh Stephenson in his article (October 7), *Keeping watch on the exchanges*, takes to task the "raiders" of the Stock Exchange and the Council for the Securities Industry.

Naturally we regret the loss of a big contract," Mr Brian Hayward, managing director, said. "But we have the men, the vehicles, and the expertise, and we shall be going out to expand our own business in the field."

British Rail's decision, though tough in the short term, must be right. Of the f150m parcels business, collection and delivery is losing £38m on a turnover of £40m—not the sort of loss British Rail (or anyone else for that matter) would want to stay with for long.

The decision means concentrating effort and investment elsewhere—the Red Star express parcels business between stations, turning over more than £22m a year, and working for the Post Office and others worth nearly £60m. It adds up to sensible rationalization of the parcels industry, albeit the hard way.

Michael Baily

wide. The article concluded thus:

"The real answer is to let the market be. The small shareholder may well be at a disadvantage when the dawn-raider arrives—but there are other occasions (when, for example, he wants to sell his shares) where he is at an advantage."

"One can think of plenty of battles worth fighting on behalf of the small-shareholders, but this is not one of them."

On August 7, the CSI outlawed dawn raids.

Your faithfully,

PATRICK NEILL
Chairman, Council for the Securities Industry,
20th Floor,
The Stock Exchange Building,
London EC2N 1RR.
October 7.

totally indistinguishable in the checking-in hall. One could not even tell what language they were reading.

I thought that the passengers were reasonably dressed and patient, though naturally, as regards the prospect of getting what are undoubtedly long-distance flights, it seems to me that the passengers are likely to be thoroughly ashamed of the carelessness of the airline.

At about 6.30 pm last Friday evening, I drove my husband to Heathrow to check-in for flight to Australia, and yes, it was a considerable hassle to get a quantity of heavy luggage from the Terminal car park to the check-in desk. But worse was to come. The terminal was still quite surprisingly busy, and after having waited in line for some considerable time, we had just reached the check-in desk when the telephone rang.

In the eve of hearings before the International Trade Commission on car import protection, Mr Caldwell's catchphrase, "Let's get on with it," has been injured by greatly increased car imports from Japan over the last year and the commission limits imports from Japan and elsewhere to 2 million a year for several years.

The hearing starts tomorrow

BELL'S SCOTCH WHISKY

BELL'S

Stock Exchange Prices

No follow through

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings began, Sept 29. Dealings end, Oct 10. Settlement Day, Oct 13.

Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days

BELL'S SCOTCH WHISKY

BELL'S

| 1979/80 | | 1978/79 | | 1977/78 | | 1976/77 | | 1975/76 | | 1974/75 | | 1973/74 | | 1972/73 | | 1971/72 | | 1970/71 | | 1969/70 | | 1968/69 | | 1967/68 | | 1966/67 | | 1965/66 | | 1964/65 | | 1963/64 | | 1962/63 | | 1961/62 | | 1960/61 | | 1959/60 | | 1958/59 | | 1957/58 | | 1956/57 | | 1955/56 | | 1954/55 | | 1953/54 | | 1952/53 | | 1951/52 | | 1950/51 | | 1949/50 | | 1948/49 | | 1947/48 | | 1946/47 | | 1945/46 | | 1944/45 | | 1943/44 | | 1942/43 | | 1941/42 | | 1940/41 | | 1939/40 | | 1938/39 | | 1937/38 | | 1936/37 | | 1935/36 | | 1934/35 | | 1933/34 | | 1932/33 | | 1931/32 | | 1930/31 | | 1929/30 | | 1928/29 | | 1927/28 | | 1926/27 | | 1925/26 | | 1924/25 | | 1923/24 | | 1922/23 | | 1921/22 | | 1920/21 | | 1919/20 | | 1918/19 | | 1917/18 | | 1916/17 | | 1915/16 | | 1914/15 | | 1913/14 | | 1912/13 | | 1911/12 | | 1910/11 | | 1909/10 | | 1908/09 | | 1907/08 | | 1906/07 | | 1905/06 | | 1904/05 | | 1903/04 | | 1902/03 | | 1901/02 | | 1900/01 | | 1999/2000 | | 1998/99 | | 1997/98 | | 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1913/14 | | 1912/13 | | 1911/12 | | 1910/11 | | 1909/10 | | 1908/09 | | 1907/08 | | 1906/07 | | 1905/06 | | 1904/05 | | 1903/04 | | 1902/03 | | 1901/02 | | 1900/01 | | 1999/2000 | | 1998/99 | | 1997/98 | | 1996/97 | | 1995/96 | | 1994/95 | | 1993/94 | | 1992/93 | | 1991/92 | | 1990/91 | | 1989/90 | | 1988/89 | | 1987/88 | | 1986/87 | | 1985/86 | | 1984/85 | | 1983/84 | | 1982/83 | | 1981/82 | | 1980/81 | | 1979/80 | | 1978/79 | | 1977/78 | | 1976/77 | | 1975/76 | | 1974/75 | | 1973/74 | | 1972/73 | | 1971/72 | | 1970/71 | | 1969/70 | | 1968/69 | | 1967/68 | | 1966/67 | | 1965/66 | | 1964/65 | | 1963/64 | | 1962/63 | | 1961/62 | | 1960/61 | | 1959/60 | | 1958/59 | | 1957/58 | | 1956/57 | | 1955/56 | | 1954/55 | | 1953/54 | | 1952/53 | | 1951/52 | | 1950/51 | | 1949/50 | | 1948/49 | | 1947/48 | | 1946/47 | | 1945/46 | | 1944/45 | | 1943/44 | | 1942/43 | | 1941/42 | | 1940/41 | | 1939/40 | | 1938/39 | | 1937/38 | | 1936/37 | | 1935/36 | | 1934/35 | | 1933/34 | | 1932/33 | | 1931/32 | | 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PERSONAL CHOICE

Broadcasting Guide

Edited by Peter Davalle

TELEVISION

BBC 1

m in We, The Accused (BBC 2, 2.25).

dependent Broadcasting Authority keeps a sharp eye on its craft, so tonight's film about the Mini Metro 30) had to be about something more than its stylishness, good handling, spaciousness and so on. But this is still pernicious non-advertisement for any car I have ever seen.

the independent channel. Essentially, though, Graham

cumimentary A Car is about the new baby's

home (Longbridge) and its vast army of midwives

and workers. The troubled industrial and economic

established in Leyland's terms and unions and

ent sound unusually conciliatory in their interviews. We

know if the baby does not reach an early, sturdy and

maturity. The Metro is also the subject of tonight's

(Radio 4, 7.45).

red Marks support

the right people

it won't be the same because, in the interim, the

will have gone and given the game away... I have

and admiring Leon-Garrick's Dickensian pastiche

but he has completed the master's incomplete Mystery of

wood. Mr Garrick appears on Robert Robinson's books

tonight (BBC 2, 7.30) and I hope they all treat him

respect he deserves for having done such a foolish thing

of the same quality.

I afford to be "don't know" on many issues without

very much in the short term. But not about

Cambridge Union debate we can't, because it's the future

they're talking about. The proposition is: The West,

the nuclear arms race now. Proposing it will be Lord

man, former chief scientific adviser to the British

Government, and backing him up will be David Owen, former

Secretary, and Heseltine Scoville-Jones, chairman of the

Opposition. The proposition will be Admiral of the

Hill-Nottis, former Chief of Defence Staff, supported

by Balfour, former Minister of State, Foreign Office, and

Martin, Director for Nuclear Planning, Nato. The

is Dick Taverne who won his spurs in the radio debates

Jury.

At 11. Woman's Hour (Radio 4, 2.02) is the American

client Hinde's 20-year correspondence with the

bookies Marks and Co has been presented to her

at 24 Chancery Lane Road. Harry along to Cambridge

for a week. His first bookshop before the

crosses the last traces. Musically, you can't

today listen to the Acclaim String Quartet

Quartet in E flat Op 127 (Radio 3, 3.50),

Festival Cantata Rejoice in the Lamb, with the Choir of

Jesus, Cambridge (Radio 3, 3.50) and the Mendelssohn

in C Minor Op 66 played by the Haydn Trio of Vienna

WAVELENGTHS : Radio 1: medium wave 275m/105kHz; Radio 2: med wave 335m/900kHz

or 285m/950kHz; Radio 3: long wave 150m/200kHz and 325 VHF; Greater London area: med wave 720m/147m LBC 26m, 97.5 VHF;

Capital 194m, 95.8 VHF; World Service: med wave 645kHz (463m). BBC Radio London 206m, 94.9 VHF.

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r of the High Court of

ON MR. RICHARD

2.0 FLLOYD, of 33 Ch-

ppointed LIQUIDATOR of

1 of INSPECTOR

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1976.

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shareholders will be held at 10 St. Wat-

terton, 10 Oct 1976

10 day 26, March

1976.

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